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## 4 die in triple suicide-bombing

### PM after J'lem attack: We can't continue this way

By STEVE RODAN,  
ELLI WOHLGELERTER,  
MARGOT DUDKEVITCH,  
and news agencies

In what security officials described as the most ambitious terror attack in years, three suspected Islamic terrorists, standing on both sides of Jerusalem's Rehov Ben-Yehuda pedestrian mall, blew themselves up yesterday afternoon, killing four people and wounding 192.

One of the victims was identified as Yael Botwin, 14, a ninth grader at the Ozanuyot religious high school of the arts. The others have been identified as a 20-year-old man, a 15-year-old girl, and another young girl.

Security officials said the attack appeared to be the work of the same organization that carried out the July 30 Mahaneh Yehuda bombing,

secure environment in the region. "It is clear that the perpetrators of this attack intended to kill both innocent people and the peace process itself," he said. "They must not be allowed to succeed. Everything possible must be done to stop them. The

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PM calls parents of wounded American, Page 4  
World condemnation, Page 5**

peace process can only move forward in a secure environment." Calling the bombing "an outrageous and inhuman act," Clinton said that his "thoughts and prayers

### Ben-Yehuda

## BOMBING

which killed 15 people. They said yesterday's attack could have been far bloodier had the suicide bombers not detonated relatively small bombs, and had not arrived during the hottest part of the day when the area was less crowded.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, after visiting wounded victims at Shaare Zedek Hospital, said that "the citizens of Israel will not be guinea pigs to test Yasser Arafat's goodwill or credibility. I am not ready to continue this way. We will go a different route. We will fundamentally reassess the entire process."

Netanyahu stressed that Israel "cannot continue with the diplomatic process as is. Despite our outrage, we will weigh our next moves coolly and we will review our approach to the entire negotiating process."

He argued that "we had given Arafat and the Palestinian Authority a chance and they had failed abysmally. The time has come for us to draw the proper conclusions."

After visiting the wounded, Netanyahu convened an emergency security cabinet meeting attended by General Security Service chief Ami Ayalon, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, and Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, to assess the situation and decide what steps to take.

Shortly after, Mordechai told Channel 1 that Israel had canceled a planned meeting for last night between Israeli and Palestinian security officials and the CIA.

"There is no point in talking, now is the time to act," said Mordechai. US President Bill Clinton, speaking at a hastily arranged news conference on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, where he is vacationing, called on the PA to work on its own and with the Israelis to create a

are with the victims and their families, and all the people of Israel."

Despite the attack, he said, he is sending Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to the region next week as scheduled.

"I think it's all the more important for Secretary Albright to go. I think it's important that she go on and go right out there and we keep pushing this thing," he added.

An hour after the bombing, Mordechai ordered a closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

PA officials condemned the bombing, saying they would act to capture those responsible for the attack. Arafat summoned his cabinet and security officials, and Palestinian officials said they expect widespread arrests of Islamic militants.

Hours later, Hamas sources reported that two senior members of the organization were taken into custody by PA security forces. One was identified as Jabal Mansour of Nablis, and the other as Mahmud Musalah of Ramallah.

Arafat said last night that Israel had grounded his helicopter, effectively confining him to the Gaza Strip.

"I was informed by the Israelis that my helicopter can't leave," he told CBS News. "I can't leave Gaza for the cabinet meeting in Ramallah. Do you believe it?"

Arafat had been due to fly to Ramallah this morning to attend a cabinet meeting later tonight.

His helicopter flights are coordinated with Israeli security and aviation authorities under interim peace deals signed since 1993.

It was the second time Arafat's helicopter had been grounded. The first time was last September, when Palestinians rioted following the opening of the Western Wall Tunnel exit.

Conflicting reports yesterday said anonymous callers had phoned news agencies claiming Hamas had claimed responsibility for the attack.

One caller demanded the release of Palestinian security prisoners - specifically Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and Hizbullah leader Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid - by 9 p.m. on



A policewoman helps a blast-shocked woman from Jerusalem's Ben-Yehuda pedestrian mall following yesterday's triple-suicide bombing.

(Byron McBarney)

September 14, saying that other more terror attacks would take place. A report in Wednesday's *Chicago Tribune* had quoted former Hamas leader Imad Faloouji, PA Minister of Communications and a member of the PA cabinet, as saying that other suicide bombings will occur in Israel.

"Another explosion will happen of course," he said. "Palestinians have patience, but if this starvation continues, watch for the revolution. If the Palestinians feel they are losing their dignity, if they feel Israel is playing with them, it will be very difficult to hold them back."

Faloouji, who considers himself a bridge between the PA and Hamas, reportedly blamed Netanyahu for the stalemate, because of what he called the "hard-line Israeli government policies."

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, who is visiting Moscow, said that "Arafat is the inspiration and orchestrator of all these terrorist actions. The peace process will not continue in the same pattern as it has taken place up until now, that's for sure. There will be changes and we will announce the changes later." He added that he was cutting short his visit to Moscow to return home.

The attack took place at 3:09 p.m., along the upper portion of the pedestrian mall. Two of the attackers - all of whom were dressed in wigs in an effort to blend in with the crowd - detonated their bombs in quick succession. About 10 seconds later, the third bomber set off his explosives.

The suicide bombers, in their twenties, carried a relatively small amount of explosives mixed with metal, screws and bolts. Pedestrians and shopkeepers ran down the street as the bombs shattered

tered glass as high as two stories and ruptured ceilings inside nearby stores.

"All of us ran and we stayed close to the buildings," said Golan Guy, a repairman on duty. "The bodies were lying in front of us."

Menashe Shemesh, a taxi driver, was in a dispatch station just off Ben-Yehuda, waiting for his 12-year-old grandson to arrive.

"I went out of the store and saw the body of a blonde woman," he said. "The bottom half of her was torn off. I was looking for my grandson and I couldn't find him. There were bodies and legs everywhere."

Meir Indor, head of the Terror Victims Association, said he saw a woman yelling who was seriously wounded by shrapnel. "Her eyes were like she was dead and she kept yelling that her hands were burning."

At a nearby cafe, a woman was nursing her baby when the bombs went off, Indor said. "They were both crying and the skin burned off both of their arms," he said.

Police and ambulances arrived within minutes, as the area was sealed off and the wounded were evacuated. Sappers searched the area for more explosives in nearby shops and building entrances.

Two of the suicide bombers were lying on the pavement, one in front of Discount Bank's main branch and the other in front of a storefront opposite. A third bomber was found lying in an alley. Next to him was a belt that apparently held the explosives.

Security officials said they could not immediately identify the bombers, and compared the attack to that of the Mahaneh Yehuda outrage five weeks ago.

"The same method was used at Mahaneh Yehuda," Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said. "The damage here was less."

Kahalani said he did not regret having eased the closure earlier this week. He stressed that Palestinians have easily crossed into Israel from

the West Bank despite the IDF measures.

Officials appeared frustrated by the bombings, which took place within sight of police patrols on Ben-Yehuda and adjacent streets.

Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz said deploying more police-

men is not the way to stop terrorist bombings.

"I can stop shootings, but not suicide bombers," Hefetz said. "Taking care of the terrorist infrastructure is the key."

Sarah Honig contributed to this report.

### ANALYSIS

## Pattern of escalating terror

By MARK A. HELLER

Yesterday's bombing was the third such attack inside Israel in less than a year. In statistical terms, this is too small a sample to justify generalizations. Nevertheless, something of a pattern seems to be emerging, and it includes the following elements:

The terrorists are becoming more sophisticated. The bomb in the Apropro cafe in Tel Aviv last March was placed by a lone terrorist, who may not have even intended to blow himself up. Mahaneh Yehuda was attacked by two suicide bombers, who set off their charges almost simultaneously. Yesterday's attack involved three suicide bombers, who maintained a line-of-sight and apparently communicated with each other through signals.

This is qualitative escalation, and it is made possible not only by the terrorists' own audacity, but also by an effective local support system for planning and logistics, regardless of where the bombers themselves actually came from. This means that one of Oslo's basic assumptions - that the Palestinian Authority would counter Palestinian terrorism more effectively than Israel could when it was in control of the territories - is not operative. Indeed, Yasser Arafat, by announcing after the bombing that the PA would now resume security cooperation, implicitly admitted that it had done so previously.

This government's counter-terror strategy is no more effective than the previous one's. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared immediately after the bombing that he would consult with his colleagues and security advisers and elaborate a response that will change the fundamental basis of the Israeli-Palestinian

relationship. But his essential promise to voters who were disillusioned with the last government's response to terrorism was that he already had a better alternative. If that was the case, why is it necessary to start consulting only now, 15 months and three bombings after the election? And if it wasn't the case, then Netanyahu needs to make up for lost time and quickly explain how a "secure peace" is to be achieved.

No purpose is served by dwelling on the past, but a modest acknowledgement that Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres were not entirely to blame for past bombings might be in order.

This bombing, like the last one, comes shortly before the scheduled visit of a senior American official hoping to revitalize the peace process. If this is anything more than sheer coincidence, it means that the imminent arrival of American peacemakers is an incentive for Palestinian rejectionists to blow Israelis up in the hope that an act of terrorism will derail efforts to get negotiations back on track.

And that is precisely why Secretary of State Madeleine Albright should carry out this particular visit as planned. But given the mood in the country now, there is even less likelihood than before that she will be able to discuss anything except security with her Israeli hosts. And that means that the chances of any significant movement on political matters have been reduced from slim to almost none.

If no one is able to sever the apparent link between American travel to the region and the incidence of terrorism, it might be better to pursue future mediation efforts in Washington.

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## Elton John to sing at Diana's funeral

LONDON (Reuters) - Elton John will sing at Princess Diana's funeral tomorrow, but the royal family will not play an active part in the proceedings at London's Westminster Abbey.

Buckingham Palace officials yesterday released details of a day of ceremony and mourning involving royalty and commoners, which they said broke with precedent to honor the princess.

Elton John will sing a rewritten version of "Candle in the Wind," his 1970s tribute to Marilyn Monroe and a young life snuffed out in its prime. Instead of "Good-bye Norma

Jean," Elton will sing new words by his regular lyricist Bernie Taupin: "Good-bye England's rose, may

**More Diana coverage, Pages 12, 13, 22, 24**

you ever grow in our hearts/You were the grace that placed itself where lives were torn apart."

Diana had comforted John at the funeral of fashion king Gianni Versace in July at Milan's cathedral.

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Ben-Yehuda BOMBING

Grim Israel awaits Albright PA arrests 2 Hamas men

By SARAH HONIG

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will visit the region as scheduled, despite yesterday's attack. She will, however, face a much grimmer, more determined Israeli side.

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi said last night that "a new, creative policy is being set in motion as a response to the deep disappointment in the Palestinian Authority's failure to live up to its bargain. The need now is to return full freedom to act to the IDF. The time for a defensive stance alone is over."

Hanegbi spoke to reporters after a consultation with top security advisers called by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. More consultations will follow this morning at a specially convened session of the defense cabinet.

Sources said that "important decisions" can be expected from that meeting and that these decisions had been deliberately put off until this morning so as not to be seen as taken in a state of emotional upheaval.

Israel is now facing what was described by those around Netanyahu as the greatest crisis ever with the PA, mostly because of the cumulative effect of the terrorist attacks and the fact that they are not being prevented by the PA.

Albright, who is currently in Prague, phoned Netanyahu last night, as he was consulting with GSS chief Ami Ayalon and Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak. Netanyahu urged



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu gestures during a press conference at Shaare Zedek Hospital.

her to come. But while she may not change her itinerary, the content of her

visit will not be the same. "We are changing the rules of the game," cabinet secretary Dan Naveh said last night. "We had given [PA Chairman Yasser] Arafat a chance for over a year and he blew it. He did nothing."

"This means that the same policy which we followed thus far will have to be replaced. What was not what will be. The six-month-old baby hurt in the blast is not interested in Arafat's excuses and lip service. Neither are the rest of Israel's citizens. This will not go on. The fact is that since the July bombing at the Mahaneh Yehuda market, Arafat did nothing and

this is insufferable."

The only issue the Israeli side will discuss with Albright will be the fight against the terrorist infrastructure, "the need to disarm the terrorists, and most of all to end incitement. Terrorism is not born of economic hardship, but is a product of constant incitement and brain-washing. Arafat was not even willing to do what President [Ezer] Weizman asked - that he announce publicly that the armed struggle against Israel is over," said Netanyahu adviser David Bar-Ilan.

"This reinforces our position that the issue of combating terrorism is the one and only issue on the table during Albright's visit." Jordan's King Hussein phoned Netanyahu last night and condemned the attack. He extended his personal condolences to the bereaved families and wished the wounded a speedy recovery.

By STEVE RODAN

The Palestinian Authority yesterday condemned the bombings in Jerusalem and arrested two Hamas activists, but senior officials blamed the IDF closure for hindering Palestinian efforts to fight terrorism.

"I condemn completely these terrorist activities which are against all of the people of the region," PA Chairman Yasser Arafat said after meeting a US consular official. "It is against the Israeli people, the Palestinian people, the whole peace process."

PA officials maintained that they had intelligence about a planned attack against Israel. They also warned that the renewed closure would only harm Palestinian efforts to capture suspects.

A senior official said the suicide bombers were trying to derail attempts to renew peace talks with Israel.

PA cabinet secretary Ahmed Abdul Rahman told reporters in Gaza that his government would "do our best to investigate and find those behind the bombings."

Hours later, Hamas sources

reported that PA security forces took two senior members into custody, Jabal Mansour of Nabulis and Mahmud Musalah of Ramallah.

Still, some Palestinian officials said they would not comply with Israeli demands to detain up to 150 Hamas and Jihad leaders.

In a leaflet distributed in Ramallah, Hamas claimed that its military wing was responsible for the bombings, and called on Israel to release Palestinian prisoners by September 14. A similar statement was released after the Mahaneh Yehuda bombings.

Some PA officials asserted that right-wing Israelis, supported by allies in the General Security Service, staged the bombings in an attempt to halt US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's visit next week.

They also accused Israel of trying to prevent a redeployment of IDF troops in the West Bank, which was scheduled for this month. One of those to hint at such a conspiracy theory was PA Secretary-General Tayeb Abdul Rahim.

"In my opinion, the one who carried out this incident, or the ter-

rorist attack, doesn't want Mrs. Albright coming to the region and doesn't want the diplomatic process to succeed," Abdul Rahim told the Voice of Palestine radio.

"As I said, I have many questions, many suspicions, since this action and its results achieve the goals of those who do not want the peace process to continue and do not want to fulfill the obligations of the interim stage and renew the negotiations on the permanent solution," he said.

Abdel Rahim said that over the past few days PA security chiefs received reports of attempts to stage bombings in Israel in advance of Albright's September 10 arrival.

He said the IDF closure of the territories, including the scaling of Bethlehem, prevented PA security forces from acting on the information.

Hanan Ashrawi, responsible for higher education in the PA, also said that the closure made it easier for suicide bombers to operate and urged Israel to lift the restrictions.

Muhammed Najib contributed to this report.

Officials: We knew central Jerusalem was next target

By STEVE RODAN

Security officials, calling for a new counterterrorism strategy, said last night they had known that Islamic militants were planning a suicide bombing in downtown Jerusalem, but failed to obtain details that could have foiled their attempt.

The officials acknowledged that they have been unable to counter a new terrorist strategy that aims to kill as many Jews as possible without taking credit for the operations.

"It is this policy that allows for the continuation of terror attacks and for [Palestinian Authority chief Yasser] Arafat to say that he's not responsible," an official said. "Arafat hasn't done anything against the terrorist infrastructure, yet he actually is bragging to the Americans how much he is doing."

General Security Service agents worked furiously through the night trying to identify the bodies of the three suicide bombers.

They tested for details that could lead to an identification of the attackers.

Full closure imposed

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The IDF reimposed the closure on the West Bank and Gaza Strip following yesterday's attack - after easing it earlier this week - and demanded that all Palestinian workers inside Israel return to their homes.

In addition, internal closures were ordered in villages and towns under Palestinian control, and Palestinians were barred from industrial zones in Judea and Samaria. Israelis were also barred from entering these areas.

The IDF Spokesman stressed Palestinians from Judea and Samaria requiring urgent medical attention would be allowed to enter Israel and medical equipment would be allowed through to hospitals in east Jerusalem.

According to security officials, the explosives used in the attack were similar to those used in the Mahaneh Yehuda attack on July 30.

The bombs, they said, were less powerful, adding the reason fewer people were killed and the majority of those wounded suffered lighter injuries was because the bombs were detonated in the open and not in a closed area like Mahaneh Yehuda.

Several hours after the attack, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu convened an emergency meeting with security officials, including Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, General Security Service chief Ami Ayalon, Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, and other IDF officers.

See OFFICIALS, Page 21

See CLOSURE, Page 21

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Ben-Yehuda BOMBING

Veteran jeweler stands defiant

By ELLI WOHLGELERENTER

Rafael Chen was sitting in his jewelry store at Rehov Ben-Yehuda 7 just 45 minutes after the bombing, still shaken; just outside his shop lay the dismembered body of one of the terrorists.

"I was tending to a customer here when I heard the sound," he said.

"Then a second, and a third. We ran upstairs - I was afraid they were going to come through with a machine gun and kill everyone."

Chen has operated his little shop for 20 years and remembers three or four previous bombings. "But none of them was like this," he said.

As a veteran of the downtown mall, Chen said, he knows the dangers.

"I'm always on the lookout, checking under tables and chairs, checking for packages, and I always tell tourists who come in here, 'Always look around you, be careful,'" he said.

Immediately after the explosion, family members called to see if he had been hurt.

"I told the first few who called to call the others, to let them know I'm OK. I knew it would be impossible to get through on the phone, and that they'd all be worried."

Chen said that although "my heart is still pounding - I have to go home oow and rest awhile" - he still planned to open his shop this morning.

"I am not afraid," he said defiantly, his voice rising. "The customers may not come because they're afraid, but I want davka to open."

"These are dirty people who do this, people who don't want to live in this world. But they won't be successful - we are Jews, we are strong, we have a strong army."

Chen said the pedestrian mall used to always be filled with tourists, but they're not coming in



Police sergeant Gideon Katz comforts one of the victims of yesterday's terror attack. (Ariel Zerovinski)

the same numbers anymore, and the summer had been very bad for business.

"French tourists were here and some Americans, but not like it used to be."

"Obviously the talk turned to politics, the frustration pouring out.

"[Prime Minister Binyamin] Netanyahu has to do something serious with Arafat," he said. "We give them NIS 100 million and they kill us? The money we pay to taxes we give to the Palestinians, and they're buying guns with our money - what's going on here?"

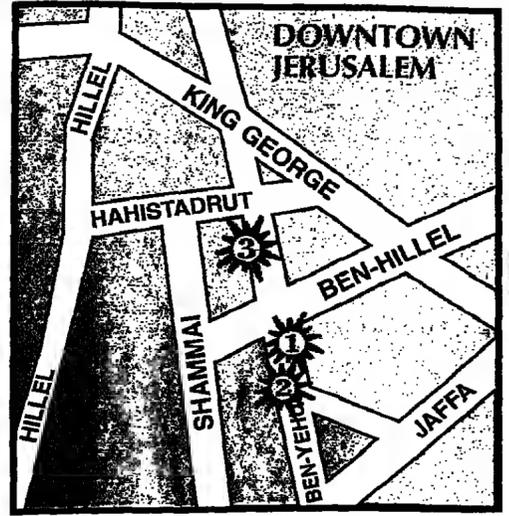
As he finished closing up shop, a security detail came into the lobby of his building, quickly pulling open cabinet doors to check for more explosives.

"It's OK," said Chen, "we're OK."

"That's what they said outside," replied the security man.

At 3:09 p.m. yesterday, three bombs went off on the crowded Ben-Yehuda pedestrian mall in downtown Jerusalem. The first, just outside the Migash Shaul restaurant, was followed seconds later by a blast outside the main branch of Israel Discount Bank, and a third outside the Bazaar Ben-Yehuda toy store.

Police said three suicide bombers, men in their 20s, positioned themselves along the busy commercial strip in a manner that allowed them to maintain eye contact. When one gave the signal, all three detonated their deadly devices, killing four and wounding 192.



An ugly deja vu

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

It was an ugly deja vu.

Just 36 days after the Mahaneh Yehoda market bombing, downtown Jerusalem was again jammed with ambulances yesterday afternoon, in an awful replay of scenes from the earlier attack.

Twenty minutes after the blast, Zion Square, usually a hub of colorful mid-afternoon pedestrian traffic, was completely closed off, as police on horseback hurried onlookers back, for fear of more bombs.

A young girl was led away from the direction of the blast, holding her mouth as her chest heaved rapidly. Three middle-aged women handed a cellular phone back and forth, looking back up Rehov Ben-Yehuda anxiously as they spoke to their loved ones. A group of dazed tourists stood with their backpacks pressed against the window of a bookstore, wondering how what had previously been only television footage had suddenly become reality for them, too.

Here and there, people who had been close to the bombs when they went off and escaped unharmed paused to regroup and talk about what they'd just seen.

Zoad Bokz, 16, of Jerusalem stood over a friend who sat on the curb, wailing as she tried to remember where her friends were when the blasts occurred. "She's from our school, and some of our classmates were hurt there, and were on the ground bleeding," he said.

"We were at Bazaar Ben-Yehuda, talking to my uncle. We told my cousin that we were going down the street, and he stayed there talking when the bomb went off. I saw an arm go flying right by me. I saw an old man go flying - what didn't? Then there was another blast down below. We decided to go into a store, but when we did, glass started to fly all around. It was a complete madhouse."

"There was one explosion, and then I saw smoke," said Benny Ben-Ami of Safed. "Then two seconds later there

was a second one and then a third one. People started running like crazy, people crying, people bleeding."

"I didn't know where to run, I was so afraid," said another man. "There were three explosions, one, two, three, and I ran. I was in shock. Bodies went flying, heads, arms, legs. People didn't know whether to go into stores or out."

The usual post-bombing political debates erupted among the crowd, as a waiter from a nearby shop calmly distributed cups of water, then went back for more.

"If I was in the army, I'd go into their villages, really wipe them out, and they would stop this real fast," said one man.

"When I'm in the army in another six years, if I see an Arab, I'll blow his head off after what I saw today," a young boy said.

"But your prime minister let them in here," snapped an older woman.

"I say we have to take them and lock them up," said Yaniv Zafrani of Jerusalem. "Don't give them food or water. Let them rot. Let them stay in Gaza and Jericho and not come here. We don't want to see them here. Any Arab who comes here we should just beat up so they don't come here. Just like we're afraid to go there, they should feel the same way about coming here."

Asked about Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's campaign promise to bring a "secure peace" to Israel, Zafrani said: "I don't blame the prime minister, he's not to blame. He can't do it himself, he depends on his cabinet, and the world around us. The world should back the prime minister, because without it he can't do what he wants to do. He doesn't want them here either. No prime minister has been able to stop these attacks."

As helicopters hovered overhead and stores in the area closed, a young girl stood against a police vehicle, quietly reciting Psalms.

"It's not a pedestrian mall," a young man said passing by her, "it's Auschwitz."

COMMENT

How 'fortunate' we were

By HERB KEINON

"How many killed" is the immediate thought that races through the mind in those first horrible seconds after one hears of a bomb blast.

The experience of the last two years has taught us to brace for the worst. The numbers start low, and then climb. Ten, 15, 20, 30 dead are numbers we have tragically become accustomed to.

So it was with an odd sigh of relief that many in the country instinctively greeted yesterday's numbers, especially the initial reports which said that "only" one innocent person was killed, along with the three suicide bombers.

This relief was similar to the same sense of relief that emerged the previous day, when the police concluded that the two men gunned down in the Jerusalem

Corridor were the victims of criminal violence, not a terrorist outrage.

There were said to be seven dead in yesterday's attack, three of them the terrorists.

"We got off lucky this time," some will think. "It's a miracle more were not killed," others will say.

Commentators spoke about how the bombs caused less damage this time because they exploded in the open, not in an enclosed or roofed-in area. Lucky.

Some luck.

There is, indeed, a little solace and comfort to be derived from a "low body count." But only a little, and only if your friends and relatives are among the safe and sound. The very act of the attack is numbing, since the mind understands full well that if fewer people than usual were killed this time, we may not be as fortunate

the next time around.

Fortunate seems a contradictory way to speak about anything having to do with an attack that takes place in the middle of the day, in the middle of the nation's capital, in the middle of its busiest pedestrian mall. Fortunate seems an incongruous word when referring

to a triple bombing that kills four innocent people, and injures over 170.

But fortunate, sadly, is the way many surely view the relatively low death toll. This says nothing about a callousness on our part. Rather, it speaks volumes about our tragic, upside-down reality.

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Ben-Yehuda BOMBING

Most victims treated for light injuries

By JUDY SIEGEL

Hadassah-University Hospital on Mt. Scopus received 42 victims of the blasts, two of them wounded seriously, eight of them moderately and the rest of them lightly. Many of the lightly hurt victims suffered from emotional trauma, cuts, and damage to their hearing.

still treating nine victims from the July 30 Mahaneh Yehuda blast. One man is in the intensive respiratory care unit, while the others are being treated in the rehabilitation, plastic surgery, and burn units.

Hadassah-Ein Kerem. Thirty-four other patients were suffering from light-to-moderate injuries. Bikur Holim yesterday discharged the last of its Mahaneh Yehuda blast victims, Dalia Atias.

On the doorstep of hell

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

"We were on the doorstep of hell," said Yoram Kaufman, one of the people wounded in yesterday's attack. Kaufman, 44, a hi-tech researcher from Tel Aviv, his wife Ora, 39, a paralegal currently on maternity leave, and their six-month-old daughter, Tamar, were sitting outside Cafe Atara when they heard what sounded like a distant explosion.

Injured visitors not soured on Israel

By HEIDI J. GLEIT

David Keinan and his family, visiting here from Los Angeles, had just finished lunch at a cafe on Rehov Ben-Yehuda yesterday afternoon and walked outside. Several steps later, three bombs went off, burning the five of them.

better equipped to deal with the injuries he received in the terror attack than hospitals in Los Angeles. Shaare Zedek was definitely more prepared for the aftermath of a terror attack than US hospitals. Shortly after the attack, an alarm system went off throughout the hospital and doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel rushed to bring equipment to the emergency room, said Maya Goldenhersh, a 19-year-old Jerusalem resident who started her national service at Shaare Zedek yesterday.

Tammy Keinan, who moved to LA from Haifa 16 years ago, said, "I feel the same way. Israel is my home. It can happen to you anywhere and I don't think there's too much you can do about people who want to commit suicide."



Prime Minister Netanyahu visits with Abe Mendelson yesterday at Shaare Zedek Hospital. (AP)

PM calls parents of US victim

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu visited the wounded at Shaare Zedek Hospital, including Abe Mendelson, 18, a yeshiva student from Los Angeles. Netanyahu took an aide's cellular phone, dialed Mendelson's parents in Los Angeles, and handed it over to him to speak.

family." Mendelson was sitting with friends at a coffee shop when the first bomb went off. "We had just gotten our drinks and were going to raise them in a l'chain when we heard a huge boom. My friends screamed and then there were two more explosions."

Magen David praised for work

By JUDY SIEGEL

Magen David Adom functioned "superbly" in treating and evacuating victims of yesterday's bomb blasts in Jerusalem's Ben-Yehuda mall. Health Ministry Director-General Gabi Barak said.

system. Many staffers and volunteers, equipped with old-fashioned beepers that did not print out messages, rushed to the site or to the MDA station only after hearing the news on the radio and not because they were called in.

book department JEWISH WEEKLY PLANNER 1997 - 1998 5758 תשנ"ח



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Some 50 fragments of medieval manuscripts are now at the Israel Museum. Sounds dull? Well, they form one of the most exciting and moving exhibitions I have ever seen.

Meir Rommen The Jerusalem Post

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studied. Now a selection on loan from Cambridge is on view in Jerusalem. It presents a vivid picture of the spiritual - and not so spiritual - mores and business dealings of a medieval Jewish community.

DATE: Friday and Saturday, 19-20 September AT: Holiday Inn, Crowne Plaza, Jerusalem. PRICE: NIS 670 per person in double room, half board (Shabbat dinner and breakfast), three lectures, tour of the exhibition at the Israel Museum, and use of hotel facilities.

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# Politicians trade blame over attack

By SARAH HONIG

The Right yesterday pronounced the Oslo process dead and buried following the Jerusalem bomb blasts, while on the Left, dire warnings were issued to the government not to allow the process to expire. Most moderate among opposition voices was Labor head Ehud Barak, who said he "does not

advise this government to draw immediate hasty conclusions from this attack regarding the future of the peace process. Netanyahu must remember that for the past year and a half he is the signatory to the Oslo agreements." As Barak sees it, "the solution is to allow the security forces to choose what to do. In the long run the only lasting solution will be a diplomatic agreement which will lead to the total separation of the Israeli and the Palestinian peoples." Labor MK Haim Ramon reminded Netanyahu that "he promised his voters a secure peace and guess what - they have no peace and no security." Another Labor MK Uzi Baram complained that prolonged closure "is not only ineffective but also dangerously counterproductive."

SEE BLAME, Page 17

## World expresses outrage

Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak condemned yesterday's bombing. He was quoted by state television as saying: "We condemn such operations which target civilian lives and spill the blood of innocent people. They only complicate the critical situation and block the peace process."

He appealed to Israel to stick to the terms of its land-for-peace deal with the Palestinians.

"I underline anew that the best way to confront acts of violence is to go ahead with the peace process, and that all parties stick to signed agreements," he said. "Resorting to collective punishment [a reference to the renewed closure] will increase the inflammation and complication of the situation."

Jordan said it opposed violence perpetrated by any party with the intention of wrecking the Middle East peace process.

In a strongly worded statement, British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said the "cold-blooded murder of innocent civilians in a crowded shopping center is beneath contempt."

He said the atrocity "makes it all the more important for the Israelis and Palestinians to return to full dialogue and to cooperate in the fight against terrorism so that peace is restored on the streets."

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, visiting Iceland, said in a statement that it is time for Israelis and Palestinians to "sit together and to take stock of the situation on the ground and in their negotiations,

to decide what can be done to prevent violence, address its causes and do everything possible to restart the peace talks."

The Security Council reaction came through council President Bill Richardson of the United States, who said he had been asked by members "to express their sadness and outrage over the bombing in Jerusalem a few hours ago."

"Although information remains preliminary, members of the Security Council agree that such acts only undermine the prospects for peace."

South Africa appealed for restraint and renewed commitment by Middle East leaders to Israel's peace process. Israeli Ambassador to South Africa Uri Oren appealed to President Nelson Mandela's government to urge Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to act against terrorist groups in his territory.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel sent a telegram to Foreign Minister David Levy.

"I ask you urgently to work against the dreadful calculation of the attackers and to continue with efforts for understanding and peace in the region against this adversity," he wrote.

Luxembourg, which holds the rotating presidency of the European Union, said in a statement that "the EU presidency urges Israel and the Palestinian Authority to combat terrorism, reestablish some mutual trust, and work together to continue the peace process." (Douglas Davis and news agencies)



Soldiers and policemen survey the damage.

## Weizman: Arafat must control Hamas

By BATSHEVA TSUR and Him

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat must be forced to take control of Hamas, President Ezer Weizman yesterday told his Egyptian counterpart, Hosni Mubarak.

Mubarak telephoned Weizman on his cellular phone as he was visiting the wounded at Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Kerem. Weizman asked him to use his influence on Arafat, stressing that the entire peace process is at stake. A grim Weizman told reporters

before entering the hospital: "There is no doubt that Israel's trust in the Palestinian Authority is undergoing a grave crisis." He said it is impossible to live under a constant threat of terrorist bombings, adding: "I am not happy to say this, because I'm still a believer in the process."

"Arafat has to be in control of Hamas and I hope that other sides taking part in the peace process, such as Mubarak and King Hussein, will use their influence on him. We cannot tolerate the current situation," Weizman said.

However, he continued, "I do not believe we should freeze the process. I hope that US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will come to the area, because this would be a wise step towards pushing forward the process. But it has to be made clear to Arafat that he has to abide by his commitments," Weizman said.

Accompanied by his wife, Reuma, Weizman visited all four Jerusalem hospitals where the wounded had been taken. News of the bombings reached Weizman, Prime Minister

Binyamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv, where they were discussing the implications of proposed cuts in the defense budgets. They immediately cut short their meeting and left for Jerusalem.

Heidi J. Gleit adds: "This is a real crisis. It can't go on like this." Weizman said at Shaare Zedek Hospital, where he and his wife, Reuma, were visiting the wounded. "Arafat will have to come to a decision or we'll have a problem. He'll have a problem."

## 19 previous suicide bombings since 1993

April 16, 1993 - One person is killed and nine are wounded by a suicide car bomber outside a roadside cafeteria near Mechoa.

October 4, 1993 - Thirty soldiers are wounded when a suicide bomber blows up his car next to a bus carrying soldiers from Jerusalem to the settlement of Shilo. The attack occurred opposite the Beit El headquarters of the civil administration.

April 6, 1994 - In Afula, eight people are killed and 50 wounded in a suicide car-bombing by a bus stop, carried out by Hamas.

April 13, 1994 - In Hadera, five people are killed and 30 wounded in a suicide bus explosion. Hamas claims responsibility.

October 19, 1994 - On Tel Aviv's Rehov Dizengoff, 22 people are killed and 42 wounded when a Hamas suicide bomber sets off an explosion on a Dan bus.

November 11, 1994 - At an army checkpoint near Netzarim, three Israeli soldiers are killed and 11 wounded when a Hamas suicide bomber blows himself up.

December 25, 1994 - A Gazan who deserted from the Palestinian Police blows himself up near Binyanei Ha'uma in Jerusalem, wounding 12 people. Hamas claimed responsibility.

January 22, 1995 - At the Beit Lid intersection near Netanya, 22 people are killed and 60 wounded after two suicide bombers from the Islamic Jihad detonate explosions.

April 9, 1995 - An Egged bus traveling near Kfar Darom is blown up when an Islamic Jihad suicide bomber rams it with his explosive-laden van. Seven soldiers and an American student are killed. The same day, near Netzarim, a Hamas suicide bomber dies in an attack on an Israeli convoy. About 50 people are injured in both attacks.

July 24, 1995 - Outside the Tel Aviv Diamond Exchange, six are killed and 32 wounded when a Hamas suicide bomber blows up a Dan bus.

August 21, 1995 - In the Ramot Eshkol neighborhood of Jerusalem, four are killed and over 100 wounded when a Hamas suicide bomber detonates a bomb on the No. 26 bus.

November 2, 1995 - In Gaza, the Islamic Jihad takes responsibility for two suicide bombs detonated a minute apart near two buses. Eleven Israelis are lightly wounded in the first attack, none in the second. The attacks were believed to be in retaliation for the October 26 assassination of

Islamic Jihad leader Fathi Shkaki in Malta.

February 25, 1996 - In Jerusalem, 26 people are killed when a No. 18 bus is blown up near the Central Bus Station. Forty-eight others are wounded. Hamas claims responsibility.

The same day near Ashkelon, a Hamas suicide bomb explodes, killing one and injuring 31 others. The attacks were said to be in retaliation for the January 5, 1996 slaying in Gaza of Hamas bombing mastermind Yihyeh Ayyash ("The Engineer").

March 3, 1996 - In Jerusalem, another Hamas suicide bomber blows up another No. 18 bus, again on Jaffa Road, killing 19 and wounding nine.

March 4, 1996 - On the eve of Purim, at Tel Aviv's Dizengoff Center, 13 are killed and 130 wounded by a Hamas suicide bomber.

March 21, 1997 - At Cafe Aprolo in Tel Aviv, three are killed and 47 wounded in an explosion by a Hamas suicide bomber.

July 30, 1997 - A double suicide bombing kills 15 and wounds 176 in Jerusalem's Mahaneh Yehuda market. To date, the two bombers have not been identified, nor has their affiliation, if any, been established. (Compiled by Fern Allen)

## 'Iran, Syria implicated in attack'

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON - The terror attack has added credence to a report in the London-based weekly newsletter *Foreign Report*, which yesterday implicated Iran and Syria, along with their proxies, Hizbullah and the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

Published just hours before the bombings, the newsletter reported that four "martyrs" were recruited in the Ein al-Hilweh refugee camp in south Lebanon.

They were flown to Iran and trained for four months near the town of Mashad. They then travelled to the Syrian-dominated Bekaa Valley and, from there, they

were taken to an unnamed island near Istanbul. They eventually stepped ashore at Haifa carrying Turkish passports.

According to the report, their arrival in Israel was facilitated by an unnamed Hebrew-speaking PFLP-GC commander who was carrying an Israeli ID card.

"They all went to Jerusalem, where two of the 'martyrs' blew themselves up in a Jerusalem market on July 30," noted *Foreign Report*. "The other two, says our source, are waiting their turn."

The newsletter reported that a top-ranking Iranian minister had summoned his senior aides to a meeting earlier this year and asked them to perpetrate a "spectacular operation" in Israel.

The first was aborted when a Hizbullah activist, carrying a British passport, arrived in Israel from Switzerland and blew himself up in his Jerusalem hotel room. The Mahaneh Yehuda bombing, according to the newsletter, was part of the second operation.

It said the attack was instigated by the same Iranian minister, who requested an attack by "a former leader of Hizbullah who still maintains a following" and the PFLP-GC, which, according to Israeli sources, is "entirely at the disposal of Syrian intelligence."

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## Arafat's moment of truth

The bombs that ripped through Jerusalem's Rehov Ben-Yehuda pedestrian mall yesterday also ripped through the polite academic debate over whether Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is doing enough to crack down on terrorism. It is deadly obvious that Arafat is not doing everything he can to fight terror: it is hard to imagine even Palestinian leaders saying otherwise with a straight face.

Arafat's crackdown on terrorism was to be a prerequisite for US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's trip to the region. On Tuesday, the State Department feebly claimed that "sufficient progress" had been made for her trip to go forward, while making clear that the US was not satisfied.

Despite yesterday's triple suicide bombing, Albright has wisely decided to travel as scheduled, because to cancel would be seen as giving in to terror. President Bill Clinton was also right to emphasize that the focus of her trip would be security cooperation. In a hastily convened press conference he told reporters: "It is clear that the perpetrators of this attack intended to kill both innocent people and the peace process itself. They must not be allowed to succeed. Everything possible must be done to stop them. The peace process can only move forward in a secure environment."

In essence, Albright's mission will now necessarily become to achieve what the US had expected to see happen immediately after the Mahaneh Yehuda bombing: a sea change in Arafat's live-and-let-die approach to terrorism.

Until now, Arafat has tried to convince the US and Israel that the most effective anti-terrorism measure is the bear hug: Bring the rejectionists into the fold, and they will behave. The height of this approach was the recent "unity conference" and Arafat's infamous kissing of Hamas and Islamic Jihad leaders.

After yesterday's bombing, this approach has lost what little credibility it might have had. In recognition of this, chances are that between now and Albright's arrival, Arafat will finally take some visible steps against the terrorist groups.

The issue, however, has gone beyond whether Arafat will cooperate with Israel in after-the-fact responses to specific attacks. The issue is whether the bear hug will be abandoned. Or, as the Netanyahu government is putting it, now Arafat will choose between peace with Hamas and peace with Israel.

Arafat has been avoiding this choice like the plague for three reasons: He does not want to

fight Palestinians, he does not want to free Israel from the threat of terrorism, and he does not want to be perceived as Israel's security subcontractor.

Of course, it is Arafat's fault that fighting terrorism should be equated with taking orders from Israel. If Arafat were abiding by Oslo, he would be cooperating with Israel against terrorism as a matter of course — and of the Palestinian national interest. It is by refusing to enter such an ongoing, normalized relationship that Israel is left to hand over names of terrorist suspects to be arrested.

It is not just in matters of atmosphere and procedure that Oslo is breaking down. Though the Oslo Accords are only interim agreements, they are based on the same formula that has guided the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict since the 1967 war: territory for peace. Oslo was structured to require Israel to band over most of the territory, which includes almost the entire Palestinian population, before final-status talks even begin. In exchange, Arafat committed himself to ending terror.

Today it is clearer than ever that Arafat sees terrorism as necessary to ensure that Israel keep its side of the bargain. The problem with this approach is that, just as Arafat is unwilling, as he puts it, to be Israel's equivalent of the SLA in the West Bank, Israel is unwilling to continue delivering an agreement that is being routinely violated.

Albright's message to Arafat should be a simple one: We agree with you that some of Israel's actions are not in the spirit of Oslo — but you are, Samson-like, destroying the pillars of Oslo, and threatening the collapse of the whole agreement.

Terrorism, Albright should continue, will not only fail to induce Israel to make further concessions; if Israel is, in fact, trying to step off the Oslo track, Palestinian terrorism provides the only way out. On the other hand, if the Palestinians abide by all their commitments — including security cooperation, amending the PLO covenant, and extraditing terrorists — the pressure on Israel to interpret Oslo generously would be enormous.

The irony of Arafat's attempt to keep the pressure on Israel through the threat of terrorism, is that terrorism is the only thing that can prevent Israel from keeping the Oslo agreement. Albright's task is to convince Arafat that the moment of truth has arrived: The fate of Oslo is in his hands, but he cannot have the fruits of Oslo without also paying its price.



## Conflict management

GERALD M. STEINBERG

Despite the sage pronouncements declaring the death of the Middle East "peace process," whatever this may be or may have been, most of what has been said and written is far off target. The dialogue that began with the 1991 Madrid Conference and continued with the meetings in Norway and through the visits of Dennis Ross is changing, not ending.

In the face of continued terrorism and support for violence from the Palestinian leadership, it is unrealistic to expect a permanent settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in a few years. Instead, there is a growing shift in emphasis from conflict resolution to conflict management.

It is clear that while the tensions will not disappear in the short term, they can be managed and contained, with rules of the game and recognized limits. Then, perhaps in the next generation, the search for a settlement, contractual or tacit, can resume on a firmer foundation.

The unrealistic expectations stem from the 1993 Declaration of Principles (the Oslo agreement), in which Israel and the Palestinians pledged to reach an agreed "permanent settlement" by 1999. This was a noble objective indeed, and a successful conclusion was always against the odds. The architects, including the Norwegian sponsors, and the Israelis who navigated through the process — Shimon Peres, Yossi Beilin, and perhaps even the usually skeptical Yitzhak Rabin — aimed at nothing less than the end to generations of hatred, warfare, and terrorism in a period of six years.

The series of agreements that followed, with the grand signing ceremonies and eloquent speeches, created expectations both in

Israel and among the Palestinians that proved very unrealistic. Palestinians expected to get an independent state, encompassing up to 90 percent of the West Bank, a share of sovereignty in Jerusalem, and agreement for absorption of millions of refugees. Israelis expected a complete end to terrorism, hatred, and threats of violence, including the

requires small steps rather than grand gestures, with proportionately lesser results. Instead of seeking a contractual permanent settlement agreement, the political leaders need to focus on reducing day-to-day friction, insuring security, and lowering expectations.

This does not mean preservation of the status quo. On the contrary,

### It was unrealistic to expect that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict could be solved in a few years

elimination of the foundations for terrorist groups. These were and remain reasonable long-term goals, but the Palestinians, in particular, were not ready to implement the measures necessary to provide Israel with security.

In the absence of a major change in Palestinian policies and attitudes (and there is no reason to expect this — indeed, the evidence points in the opposite direction), the goals of this process are shifting. Permanent status agreements are out, and conflict management is in.

For the past 18 months, since the suicide bombings, the major activity has involved de-escalation of tensions and crises. In the past year, the Western Wall Tunnel incident, Hebron, the bombing in the Tel Aviv cafe, Har Hinnah, the Mahaneh Yehuda blast and most recently, yesterday's bombing in the center of Jerusalem, all have led to conflict management.

THE problem is that in many respects, conflict management

the withdrawal of the Israeli military presence near Palestinian population centers should continue, but only as the Palestinian authorities demonstrate that they can consistently prevent terror, violence, and confrontation. Economic and other forms of functional cooperation (health, environment, transportation, etc.) should be encouraged, thereby creating a basis for the eventual end to the hatred and violence that fuels this conflict.

The US government has a major role to play in this process. Although the Clinton administration and the State Department were not responsible for the Oslo agreement, they adopted it, and have pressed (mainly Israel) for the implementation of each step.

From the beginning, many professional diplomats recognized that the attempt to negotiate a permanent agreement was unrealistic, and would be counterproductive, but they remained silent and continued to act as if this was possible. This was a mistake, because

it allowed the mutually contradictory expectations among Palestinians and Israelis to grow.

Now, instead of trying to put the Oslo process "back on track," Madeline Albright and Dennis Ross should acknowledge, loud and clear with no room for misunderstanding, that the pledges made in the Oslo process cannot be implemented. Instead, they can devote their considerable resources and energy in devising a package of measures to manage the conflict and prevent crises before they reach the boiling point.

Direct involvement of US security officials in creating and implementing specific procedures regarding the exchange of information regarding terrorists is of central importance. The US can also become more involved in developing the Palestinian economy, so that workers will not be dependent on jobs and income generated in Israel.

The Arab states, including Egypt and Jordan, must also be convinced that this is the best that can be accomplished under the circumstances, and efforts to force Israel to make concessions that are inconsistent with its security will be counterproductive.

Finally, beyond the immediate need for a change in emphasis, there is an important lesson for all would-be international peace makers, from Bosnia to Cyprus. High-sounding and well-intentioned agreements may give the mediators a sense of accomplishment, but if they cannot implement the details, the process falls apart, with negative results for all.

The writer directs the project on Middle East arms control at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, Bar-Ilan University.

## An economy in chains

MOSHE ARENS

In ten days' time, after the announcement by the Central Bureau of Statistics of the previous month's rise in the cost-of-living index, the public will be treated in the ritual debate over the level of interest rates that the governor of the Bank of Israel will set in his seemingly endless battle to slay the dragon of inflation.

It is a Greek tragedy — the end is already known. The governor's response to an increase in the rate of inflation will be to raise the interest rate. That may bring about a slight decrease in inflation in the following two or three months, but will, inevitably, be followed by the strengthening of the shekel that raising interest rates induces. The economy, so heavily dependent on imports, then responds by an increase in prices, and we're back to where we started — except that exports, the lifeblood of the economy, have received another setback. Plus ça change, plus ça la meme chose.

The annual rate of inflation has remained stuck at about 10 percent for many years now, the heroic efforts of the central bank governor notwithstanding. All of the industrial countries of the world have brought their rate of inflation down to 2% to 3%, Israel remaining the lone exception. The government has brought the budget deficit under control, and even though unemployment is on the rise, the 10% inflation rate keeps sailing on. It is like a low fever in a patient, indicating that

there is something basically wrong with our economic system. A sickness that cannot be cured by periodic increases in the interest rate.

There is no need for learned economists to put our finger on the cause.

The prescription for economic growth without inflation is known and has been applied in recent

### The prescription for economic growth without inflation can be summarized in three words: liberalization, deregulation, and privatization

years, to a larger or lesser degree, in all of the industrialized nations. It can be summarized in three words: liberalization, deregulation, and privatization.

The country that has pioneered this policy, the US, also has the healthiest economy — 2%-3% inflation, good growth, and minimal unemployment. Close behind is Britain, which under Margaret Thatcher's leadership went from stagnation, unemployment, and inflation to healthy growth through the application of this very same policy. Lagging behind are Japan, France, and Germany, countries that have been considerably more hesitant in applying this remedy.

the same pace as the US and the UK.

But the rigidities of their economies are mild compared to those of the Israeli economy. Much of the economy is still "indexed" to the rate of inflation, making it difficult to reduce inflation. The public sector is linked and cross-linked, thus turning any increase in salary to a particular sector into a wave that eventually encompasses everybody.

It is only in the past few years that successive governments have begun to chip away at the "Bolshevik" economy erected by the Labor Party in the days when it waved the socialist banner. Slowly, too slowly, the process of

privatization and liberalization has begun.

But most of the large enterprises are still in the hands of the government; government controls are everywhere; and monopolies pervade the economy. The Histadrut, or is it the "new" Histadrut, has decided that it wants to keep it this way. Its slogan is no privatization and no competition.

The government and the public are threatened with massive strikes if the government does not abandon its plans to modernize our economy and make it more efficient. That a more efficient economy is in the interest of the working population is not recognized by this dinosaur, which still believes in the "class struggle." The Histadrut doesn't seem to understand that inflation hurts the weakest segments of the population.

The weekly Economist, writing on the occasion of India's 50th year of independence, stated that India is an economic failure as a result of its government's policies of centralized planning and government control. Israel, a country so rich in human resources, has also failed to achieve its full economic potential for the very same reason.

Correcting the errors of past years and unshackling the chains that bind our economy is the challenge facing us as we approach our 50th anniversary.

The writer is a former defense minister.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### EVEN HANDED

Sir, - With the JP Friday issue, I scan through the headlines and turn eagerly to Moshe Arens's weekly column.

I enjoy and am always so impressed by his erudite, lucid, and evenhanded presentation of issues that are timely and of interest to all of us.

Never does he display any bias or intolerance true to his sincerity and humility. Mr. Arens's approach to our daily dilemmas reflects his wisdom, sagaciously realistic analysis toward better understanding and solutions.

Were his column placed on the front page of The Jerusalem Post it certainly would effectively counterbalance the ever-present disquieting news of the day.

Jerusalem, WALTER ALSTER

### CURB THEIR URGE

Sir, - The government has posted signs in the cities imploring motorists to drive carefully and not to kill. The drivers who are reckless or impatient are emotionally incapable of being influenced by signs. Even if they suffer the extreme shock of injuring or killing someone, they will certainly drive more carefully but only for awhile, perhaps a few months. But they will inevitably slip back to their habitual ways of driving.

To stop them from driving recklessly, they must be penalized where it hurts them personally: An extremely high fine such as NIS 2000-3000 and a long suspension of their driving license. Imprisonment for a few days or a week will go a long way to curb their urge to drive carelessly.

Jerusalem, CARL LAMPNER

### INCREASING VIOLENCE

Sir, - A kindergarten for Jewish toddlers was vandalized. If this had occurred anywhere in today's world, it would have been met with anger, outrage, call to action, indignation and a cry of antisemitism. Well it didn't happen just anywhere; it happened here, in Israel, and the instigators were not "goyim" but Jews.

The rage, outcry, indignation and call to action from the government, from each and every citizen should rip through the silence till the perpetrators are punished and steps taken to put an end to the ever increasing violence against those who wish to practice Judaism in a non-Orthodox fashion.

I sincerely hope that the New Year will bring to our land tolerance, understanding, sensitivity, respect for each other and peace among ourselves and our neighbors.

Jerusalem, HONEY STOLLMAN

### FOOLISH BARGAIN

has the Golan and Labor has their caps in their hands asking Assad to be nice and give Israel his promises with respect to the depth of demilitarization and the degree of normalization, promises that can be broken while ceded land cannot be returned but by a war.

The present government would not accede to such an unbalanced, asymmetrical and simply foolish bargain. Of course those in Labor tell us that such an offer was not made to Assad. Syria did not receive the offer out of

thin air, it was conveyed to them by secretary of state Christopher, who was given it by Rabin and Peres. Labor leaders had a proclivity for not using direct mail; they directed mail to Arafat via Norway and to Assad via Washington.

Besides Mr. Peres and Mr. Sarid, how many men in the previous coalition echoed their leaders' assertion that "Golan is Syrian territory."

Jerusalem, ARTHUR GRUDER

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 years ago: On September 5, 1937, The Palestine Post reported the following outrages: Eliezer Gerstein was shot and badly wounded while returning from prayers at the Western Wall. A wealthy Arab notable was shot by an Arab, and a British constable was killed while passing through the Street of the Prophets in Jerusalem. There were other shooting accidents throughout the country and a Jewish lorry was stoned at Ramle.

50 years ago: On September 5, 1947, The Palestine Post reported that Dr. Chaim Weizmann would lead the Jewish Agency's delegation to the UN General Assembly deliberations on Palestine. Seven Arab rebels, sentenced to life imprisonment for their part in the 1936 disturbances, were pardoned and released by the government. For the third day troops and police carried out a systematic house-to-house search in Jerusalem. Some damage was reported.

25 years ago: On September 5, 1972, The Jerusalem Post reported a fifth attack from Syria when an Israeli tank hit a mine in the Golan. A search of the area revealed large quantities of sabotage equipment, brought over into the Golan by terrorist from Syria.

An unsuccessful assassination attempt was made on Gaza Mayor Haj Rashad Shawa by Arab assailants. Alexander Zvielli

## POSTSCRIPTS

THE CANADIAN black bear, 400,000 strong in the north woods, is hardly one of the world's most endangered species. But its most famous byproduct might be in for the fight of its life.

The distinctive bearskin headgear worn by royal household regiments at Buckingham Palace might soon give way to artificial fibers.

This assault on tradition comes not from some militant fringe, but by order of the new minister of defense procurement, Lord Gilbert, a noted animal-welfare advocate and conservationist. Gilbert recently told the military

to investigate synthetic alternatives for the sleek, black, towering headgear that is among Britain's most identifiable symbols.

About 150 pelts are needed each year for new headgear, a small fraction of roughly 25,000 Canadian black bears legally killed annually.

The hats stand 18 to 20 inches tall, weigh several pounds, according to the Defense Ministry, and cost \$600 to \$700 each. The bear fur is dyed to a uniformly black color and then stretched over a cane or wicker frame.

Most last 20 to 30 years, some longer. Some officers are walking around wearing their grandfathers

bearskins.

The military has already experimented with artificial bear fur and found it wanting. Nothing tried to date has been able to stand up to London's damp and rainy weather.

"They don't look the part," a Defense Ministry spokesman said. "It bunches together, and there are problems with static electricity." Or as one TV anchorwoman put it, rather like a bad hair day.

TO THE long list of hazards associated with smoking, add more exploding cigarettes. In the space of one week, four Northern Virginia residents lit up

Marlboro cigarettes only to trigger small but loud blasts that left them either blackened with powder burns or temporarily blinded by a flash of light.

Police are investigating the explosions for possible criminal product-tampering.

The smokers said they found a hard, strawlike object in the cigarettes, which were sent to labs for testing.

One of the affected smokers contacted the manufacturer, Philip Morris, which offered her a replacement product. She declined. "They better not send me no more Marlboros," she said.

# A visit doomed to fail

YOSSI SARID

I would have written the following words as "an open letter to Madeleine Albright," if I weren't afraid of sounding a little pathetic and old-fashioned. So not a letter - just some sincere words for the secretary of state to consider, as she prepares to depart for our region next week.

It is quite clear that Albright is travelling to the Middle East as one driven by some diabolic compulsion. It is over eight months since she was appointed to her job. She has already visited almost every corner on earth but she has kept away from this region, as if she were afraid of contracting some contagious disease.

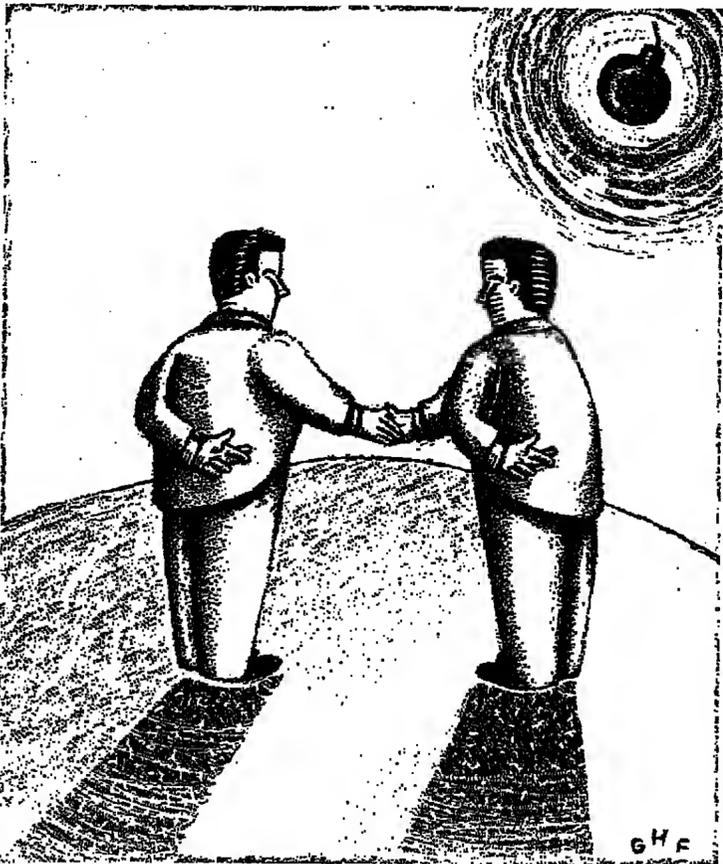
She apparently had the example of Warren Christopher, her predecessor, before her eyes: How the poor man trudged from Jerusalem to Gaza to Damascus and back to Jerusalem, how he degraded himself by standing like a pauper in the doorway, as if the US is not the world's only superpower but the island of Micronesia. I watched Christopher closely during his voyages to our region, and while I have no doubt that he is a very honest, well-intentioned man, he was the wrong man, in the wrong time and place - a "good guy" in the worst sense of the word.

Christopher should have understood, that in the Middle East no one believes in good will and sincerity. Here only force is understood.

Perhaps Albright should continue to stay away. She has almost nothing to gain from her visit here, but a lot to lose - and she knows it well. But the whole world is asking why her ship has taken so long to dock, and had she waited any longer she might have been accused of bad faith. This is something the administration could not allow to happen.

But her visit is destined to fail, because she will be meeting with leaders who do not wish to deliver, and who are unable to deliver. We are dealing here with weak leaders, who are not leading their respective political camps, but are following them. Even the slightest tempest pushes them away from the skipper's deck to the ship's stern, and the ship seems about to sink.

There is another reason for the



superpower, that she is likely to discover that, behind her back, explicit undertakings which were given to her are being systematically broken.

IF ALBRIGHT has a mind to save herself - and us who live in this deadly area - she absolutely must arrive here not only with a carefully worked out plan, but also with a determination to impose this plan. Without such determination she will be wasting her time and energy, as well as the reputation of the US, and she will be failing us.

An unsuccessful visit could turn out to be a very dangerous visit, for the disillusionment that it will leave behind could trigger a further outburst of violence and bloodshed. It would therefore be much better if the Albright were to avoid her mission altogether, rather than to risk total failure.

As the State Department spokesman emphasized this week, Albright is no magician. But she is the representative of the one and only world power, and none of the region's leaders would dare openly clash with her. If only Albright would understand who she is dealing with, she would not agree to leave the Middle East without Binyamin Netanyahu completely freezing all the settlements and stating exactly how much territory Israel will be relinquishing in the approaching second withdrawal, and without Yasser Arafat starting to deal with the terror as terror, not as if it were the weather, about which all one can do is talk.

Netanyahu must agree to negotiations about an overall withdrawal from the Golan Heights, just as Hafez Assad must agree to appropriate security and water arrangements and full normalization with Israel.

And one would have to say in Madeleine Albright, if one were to write her an "open letter": What is most important is not to be afraid. Not to be afraid of these questionable leaders, for public opinion is certain to be on her side. We trust the wisdom and responsibility of the US, which is a loyal and devoted friend and has never failed us. Let us just hope that Netanyahu will not turn Albright into a subject of mockery, for his mocking could be the undoing of us all.

The writer is the leader of Meretz.

# The message - not the medium

MARK A. HELLER

The soldiers who led the riot in Military Prison No. 6 agreed to end it on terms which IDF authorities have said they are not going to honor. The ringleaders in this revolt are not run-of-the-mill military prisoners, young soldiers who have gone astray and are spending some prison time for things like insubordination or going AWOL. Instead, they have been convicted of serious crimes, including manslaughter and rape, and they are therefore unlikely to elicit much sympathy for their charges of systemic abuse and mistreatment.

But they have made a point - about conditions in military prisons - and neither their character nor their methods should provide an excuse not to give this point the serious public scrutiny it demands. The same can be said of cabinet secretary Dan Naveh's performance this week on the current affairs program *Popolitka*.

Apart from some archeological remains, there is little evidence left in Israel of Roman imperial influence. One of the few exceptions is *Popolitka*, which substitutes words for swords and tridents, but otherwise encourages its gladiator panelists and guests to go after each other with no holds barred, for the entertainment of the studio and home audience.

Ordinarily, I avoid *Popolitka* like the plague, because it epitomizes the worst of the culture of debate in this country, namely, the idea that the art of persuasion consists of yelling louder and longer than the next guy.

But in the course of trying to escape temporarily from reality, I caught a glimpse of Naveh and put my channel-surfer on hold. Naveh was defending Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu against the accusation that, by contributing to the freeze in the peace process and failing to establish a reputation for credibility with President Hosni Mubarak, he was somehow responsible for Azzam Azzam's conviction and sentencing by a Cairo court on charges of economic espionage. Naveh's defense was so loud and long, so strident, repetitive, and aggressive, that it practically begged to be dismissed.

HOWEVER unappealing his presentation may have been, it should not overshadow the absurdity of the accusation. It may be true that Netanyahu's policies have further inflamed Egyptian opinion by providing ammunition for the Islamists and Nasserists who always opposed any kind of normal peace with Israel, and the

atmosphere is now even worse than it was last fall, when Azzam was first arrested.

But is there really that much difference in atmosphere since the elections that it sustains ridiculous theories about Israeli conspiracies to send messages in secret ink written in women's underwear, and the atmosphere before the elections that sustained ridiculous theories about Israeli conspiracies to spread AIDS or cause sterility or irrepressible sexual appetites by means of contaminated chewing gum.

It may also be true that Mubarak ignored Netanyahu's assurances that Azzam had no connection with any intelligence-gathering operations because he doesn't believe anything the prime minister says. But Azzam's innocence has also been personally vouched for by President Ezer Weizman, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, and Labor Party leader Ehud Barak. Are all of

**The truth is the truth, no matter who tells it**

them also so lacking in credibility and integrity that they, too, share responsibility for Azzam's fate?

Azzam fell victim to a case which Egyptian security either concocted or botched but is too embarrassed to admit, and an Egyptian State Security Court whose judicial independence is problematic at best. And whether Azzam has any hope of presidential pardon now depends on the extent to which Mubarak is willing to face down the "opinion-makers" in Egypt and undermine the legitimacy of a court which has served him well in his domestic anti-terrorism campaign.

Prisoners doing hard time may not inspire much sympathy; Netanyahu may not be the most appropriate person to persuade Egypt of Azzam's innocence; and Naveh may not be the prime minister's most congenial defender, but the message should be more important than the medium. Those in both Egypt and Israel who are inclined to discount the message because of the medium would do well to bear in mind a Bedouin proverb that says: "The truth is the truth, even if it is told by a scoundrel."

The writer is senior research associate at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies or Tel Aviv University.

expected failure. There is no way to sidestep the heavy issues. The secretary of state is getting all sorts of advice on how to overcome the insurmountable obstacles: "Lebanon first" with Syria; a "permanent settlement" with the Palestinians rather than an "interim agreement." Even Henry Kissinger has some advice for Albright before she hits the road. But she will learn very quickly that if problems are not

**Madeleine Albright must realize that leaders in the Middle East do not keep their word**

resolved, they very rapidly return to haunt us, and that changing proce-

dures does not change the essence. But the main reason the visit is bound to fail has to do with the nature of the local leaders and how they conduct themselves. We are talking of individuals who are not trustworthy and whose word can never be taken at face value. For a word is not a word and a commitment is not a commitment. It is precisely because Albright has a broad back, the back of a

# Truth with a capital T

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

Some years ago, I asked the head of a well-known yeshiva for *ba'alei teshuva* (the newly observant) why the yeshiva insists on immersing new students in intense Talmud study immediately.

A student who dropped in off the street and stayed for a month or so, I pointed out, might have little more to show for his six hours of daily Talmud study than a page or so, on which every word would be laboriously translated from Aramaic to English, dealing with what happens when a bull goes a cow and a newborn calf is found dead by the cow's side. One page out of the more than 5,000 that comprise the Babylonian Talmud.

His reply was an eye-opener: We start with Talmud, he said, to teach the new student that you cannot say whatever you want. Without shaking the newcomer to yeshiva out of the prevailing belief that everything is a matter of opinion and all opinions are equally valid, he realized, there is no possibility of proceeding to discuss the truth of the Torah, or any other form of truth with a capital T.

Studying Talmud is the antidote to a careless assumption that all opinions are equally valid. In Talmudic learning some opinions are

demonstrably false by virtue of their failure to account for all the evidence. Though commentators may reach different conclusions in the interpretation of a particular topic, each of those interpretations must be capable of accounting for all the relevant statements of the Tannaim and Amoraim throughout the entirety of the Talmud. Not for naught did the late Harvard medievalist Harry Wolfson compare Talmudic study to the testing of hypotheses in science.

The yeshiva head correctly perceived how deeply engrained in the typical college student is a lazy cultural relativism. As Allan Bloom writes in his devastating critique of American higher education, *The Closing of the American Mind*, "There is one thing a professor can be absolutely certain of: Almost every student entering the university believes, or says he believes, that truth is relative. If this belief is put to the test, one can count on the students' reaction: They will be incomprehending."

According to a recent article in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, between 10 percent and 20% of college students cannot even bring themselves to condemn the Nazis as morally wrong, as opposed to aesthetically distasteful. "Of course I dislike the Nazis," began a typical student response, "but who is to say they

are morally wrong." Cultural relativism is assumed to be the height of intellectual sophistication. It is just the opposite. In its wake follow intellectual sloth and the death of intellectual curiosity.

TODAY'S students have no motivation to examine the values upon which they live their lives, since they are convinced that both their values and any opposing ones are culturally determined. That is

**Cultural relativism is assumed to be the height of intellectual sophistication. It is just the opposite**

why, Bloom points out, one encounters today so few students infused with any longing to know all about another culture.

Relativism has convinced the modern student that those cultures contain no information that would help in his search for the good life, or indeed that there is any such thing. Rather than testing his assumptions from another vantage point, he allows inertia to guide him. So much for the unexamined life.

Civilizations have believed many things, the critic Joseph Wood Krutch once wrote, but none has ever believed that all values are relative and survived.

Our prevailing cultural trends, which elevate tolerance to the supreme, if not only, value thus fly in the face of the entire tradition of Western thought. That tradition was based on the assumption that there is a Good, and that it is our obligation and purpose in life to use all the resources at our command to identify that Good and to live in accord with its dictates.

Even when today's students speak the language of truth, their conception of truth is so attenuated as to be unrecognizable by the ancients. For them, Truth implies no obligations. "The Torah may be true," I have been told, "but I'm too young and have too much fun ahead of me to become a Torah observant Jew. Maybe in a few years."

The Alter of Novordok once met an enlightened Jew (*maskil*) at an inn and engaged him in conversation. In the course of the conversation, the *maskil's* servant entered the room, and the *maskil* told him to bridle his horses. The Alter immediately halted the conversation, and refused to continue despite the *maskil's* protestation that he was enjoying it very much. "I do not discuss things for the

sake of intellectual amusement," the Alter explained, "but for the purpose of discovering the truth and acting upon it. For you, however, this is only an academic exercise. Otherwise you would have waited until we were done to see whether I would convince you to follow my path before ordering the horses prepared."

That same lack of intellectual honesty - the refusal to scrutinize the assumptions of one's life and to consider the possibility of reordering one's way of life - remains the greatest barrier to the consideration of Torah by secular Jews.

The writer is the author of numerous biographies of modern Jewish leaders and Israel correspondent for the Jewish Observer.

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Some of the advertisements appearing in our papers are type set outside The Post. When such an advertisement arrives just before the publication deadline, especially when it is provided in the form of a film, it is difficult for us to correct any spelling mistakes that may appear.

While we make every effort to correct such errors, we must ask our readers' indulgence for those occasions when this is not possible.

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## Arafat must make a choice

Unless the PA tackles terrorists in its domain, talks with the Palestinians will not move ahead, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu tells Jay Bushinsky in a wide-ranging interview



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu: Arafat has to choose between 'peace with Hamas and peace with Israel.'

(Isaac Harari)

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's most important contribution to the Middle East peace process, according to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, would be to convince the Palestinian Authority of the need for genuine and effective action against the terrorist infrastructure within its domain.

Without that, he said, it will be impossible to implement the further redeployments stipulated in the Oslo Accords and subsequent Hebron agreement.

Netanyahu gave an exclusive interview to *The Jerusalem Post* on Wednesday, in anticipation of Albright's planned arrival here next week.

"The immediate thing we're looking for is the Palestinians' fulfillment of the obligations," which, he notes, are specified in the Oslo text, "to fight terrorism and dismantle the terrorist infrastructure, commitments that have not been fulfilled so far," he said. "If the secretary's trip advances that [goal] it will be an important contribution to peace."

The prime minister defined the PA's attitude toward the suppression of terrorism as a grave deviation from the Oslo spirit and intent.

"In effect, the one structural flaw in Oslo is the failure of the Palestinian Authority and of [Chairman Yasser] Arafat to live up to the commitment he gave to prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, namely, 'You give us territory, we'll fight terrorism from that territory.'"

"That simply has not happened. The opposite has. We have had an explosive growth of terrorism in the four years of Oslo... Hamas and Islamic Jihad have built terrorist bases and enjoy terrorist safe havens five minutes away from our major cities."

"That has caused the death of 250 Israelis in the first two-and-a-half years [after Oslo] - a situation no government can endure, that peace cannot endure. Arafat cannot escape the choice he must make between peace with Hamas and peace with Israel."

Netanyahu spoke gravely about Iran's ballistic missile buildup, in which Russian experts are actively involved. He outlined the grim possible consequences if the Russian government does not stop the flow of its extensive technological know-how and the export of vital components to the Islamic republic.

"It could change the balance of power in the Middle East," Netanyahu said. "It could [negatively] affect the peace agreements already existing in the Middle East and those yet to be reached. The premier stressed that all the powers interested in resolving existing conflicts, Russia as well as the US, must take effective action to prevent the regional balance of power from shifting in Iran's favor."

Iran's incessant effort to disseminate its extremist ideology.

IN DISCUSSING the Palestinian track, he made no reference to the construction work at Jerusalem's Har Homa or the reported possibility that Albright may seek a three- to six-month pause in the controversial project. Nor did he seem ready to make any concessions on settlements in conjunction with further redeployment or proceeding to final-status talks.

"We have a clear position, which is that we fulfill agreements," he said. "The Oslo Accords are quite clear about our commitments and about the Palestinians." They make no mention of settlements - in fact, Rabin was very clear about the freedom that Israel maintains to build settlements, even new ones, something we are not doing.

"I think the important thing at first is to establish [the principle] that old commitments are kept before new ones are entertained."

"We fulfilled our side," Netanyahu insisted. "We've redeployed in Hebron and fulfilled other commitments; but the Palestinians have not."

Asked why his government had not approved any new settlements, the premier said: "We decided early on that any decision on a new settlement would require the full cabinet's approval, and we haven't brought any for approval so far."

But surely, he was asked, he could have gotten approval from his cabinet, had he asked for it?

"I think we have contented ourselves with allowing the growth of existing settlements," Netanyahu answered. "They're growing, I don't think they're growing quite at the pace at which they grew under the Labor government, and I don't say this with any particular pride. [Their population] expanded by nearly 50 percent under Labor."

"That didn't seem to be such a hindrance toward peace then, the way it is presented now."

Netanyahu defended his proposal to shelve the frustrating quest for interim agreements, which he described as potential sources of new friction and violence, in favor of final-status talks. He denied that the suggestion was a tactic designed to avoid further troop redeployments in the interim.

The only reason for postponing additional troop pullbacks, he said, would be the PA's failure to act against terrorists and terrorism.

The parties should "cut to a final agreement," Netanyahu said, contending that "the incremental process erodes confidence, with each side eyeing a final settlement."

He contended that an immediate advance to final-status talks "would enable the parties to cut the Gordian knot" that breeds frustration and violence.

The prime minister rejected Arafat's definition of the demand for the arrest of 150 people on Israel's "wanted" list as a "dictate," asking: "What good is it for us to make new concessions - give more pieces of land - which will simply be used as launching grounds for additional terrorist attacks against us?"

Netanyahu went on to reject the idea of statehood as a feasible option. He cited security considerations as the main reason.

Netanyahu argued that sovereignty would enable the Palestinians to forge military alliances with Iraq and Iran, challenge Israel's control over the air space west of the Jordan River and deploy weapons near Tel Aviv.

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# A smoldering issue

Standing in the blackened interior of Mevasseret Zion's Reform nursery school, pointing out the torn window screen, broken window and burned toys, Chana Sorek, chairperson of the local Reform congregation, says they had essentially been forewarned about last weekend's torching of the nursery.

"We'll burn you out." "It's too bad they didn't burn you at Auschwitz." "You sell pork in the shopping mall. We'll burn the shopping mall and we'll burn you, too." These, says Sorek, were some of the threats made by Mevasseret residents at a highly charged, local council meeting last January when the Reform congregation was to be offered a parcel of land on which to build a synagogue and community center.

On Monday, hours after the arson was discovered, Tehiya Greenwald, a local Reform activist, received a telephone call from someone who told her, "You'll be hearing from us." Greenwald's telephone number appeared in an advertisement in the local newspaper for courses being held at the nursery, Sorek notes.

"People who live in the cottages and expensive apartments in Mevasseret think everything is quiet and calm here, but under the surface things are going on that are very hard to live with," Sorek says.

In her view, the nighttime arson at Kehilat Mevasseret Zion nursery was part of a larger pattern of political violence in the town. Two local council members, Akhram Barzani and Haviv Levy, had acid thrown onto their cars a couple of years ago, evidently because they made decisions regarding local building rights that led some residents "to want to take revenge," Levy says. Not long ago a grenade was thrown into a grocery store that opened up in competition with a nearby store, Sorek adds.

Mevasseret Zion, which has 20,000 residents, lies about 10 kilometers west of Jerusalem on either side of Route 1. The Maaz Zion neighborhood on the south side of the highway is populated mainly by the descendants of Kurdish and Iraqi immigrants who came here in the 1950s. The north side, called Mevasseret Yerushalayim, which

## Tempers are inflamed over the torching of the Reform nursery school in Mevasseret Zion. Larry Derfner tries to discover who was responsible

was originally populated in the 1950s by North African immigrants, has grown extensively in recent years. Today, most of its residents are middle-class Ashkenazim who moved here in the last two decades. Some 220 families, the majority of them Ashkenazim, are Reform Jews.

The arson at the nursery school, Sorek maintains, was an outgrowth of the fierce resentment felt by some of the town's impoverished Sephardim against their Ashkenazim neighbors. It was also connected, she contends, to the recent violent attempts by some 100 Sephardi families, many of them homeless, to move into the local absorption center.

"I'm not saying that the squatters are the ones who made the threats against us," Sorek says. "But there is an element among [poor local Sephardim] who are angry, violent, and some are alcoholics or drug addicts. They're also traditionally religious, so it's easy to turn them against the Reform because we're like a symbol of the Ashkenazim, who they claim have stolen their land - which is ridiculous," Sorek asserts.

A spokesman for the Jerusalem police force said a connection between the threats made at the council meeting and the attempted takeover of the absorption center "is one of many possibilities being investigated [in the arson case], but I don't wish to go into it further because it's a very sensitive issue." Sorek says a local council member, whom she did not name, told her, "When you see the way [some squatters] barge into our offices, cursing and threatening, you can understand how such a thing [as the arson] could happen."

Local council head Eli Mouyal disagrees, strongly with Sorek's

reading of the matter. He says the squatters at the absorption center "are just people in distress. They are angry against the establishment, but they have nothing against the Reform." Mouyal and Haviv Levy deny that they have ever been threatened by the squatters.

Furthermore, says Mouyal, the squatters are not connected to the people who protested at the January council meeting. Those demonstrators, says Mouyal, were "local Shas supporters connected to [Shas council member and National Insurance Institute deputy director] Yigal Barzani." The background of the arson, Mouyal insists, has nothing to do with ethnic or class tensions, only religious ones. "I believe the arson was carried out by religious people, Orthodox, who are against the Reform," he says.

Unlike Sorek, Mouyal is not convinced the fire was started by locals. "They might have come from Jerusalem. For instance, there was a busload of [anti-Reform] demonstrators brought in from Jerusalem for the council meeting [in January]," he notes.

However, both Sorek and Mouyal blame Barzani for inciting local enmity against the Reform. "He went from synagogue to synagogue in Maaz Zion, telling people the council was going to 'steal your children and make them Reform,'" Mouyal said. Barzani and his supporters hung posters claiming Reform Jews eat pork on Yom Kippur, Sorek says. They also protested outside Mouyal's house. "This was incitement, and incitement leads to violence," says Mouyal.

The uproar in the council over the Reform synagogue and community center was so menacing that Mouyal adjourned the meeting after five minutes. "If I hadn't cleared every-

one out, I would have had a war on my hands," Mouyal says.

Another was so close to brewing in advance of the rescheduled meeting in March. "The meeting was set for 8 p.m. Barzani's demonstrators were going to come at that time, so at the last minute I moved it up to 6 p.m.," Mouyal says.

The council voted to let the Reform community build its synagogue and community center. But Sorek says the project hasn't moved forward "because the council is afraid of angering the Interior Ministry, which is run by Shas."

Like everyone else on the council, Barzani condemns the arson attack. "It was dreadful that such an act could occur in a democratic country like Israel. It went against the Torah. The police have to find the criminals and punish them," he says.

At the same time, Barzani freely acknowledges that he hung anti-Reform posters and organized local residents to protest against the Reform, saying he acted strictly within the limits of law and democracy. "The Reform are heretics against the Torah of Israel," Barzani says. "They should not be allowed to build a synagogue, a community center or a nursery school here."

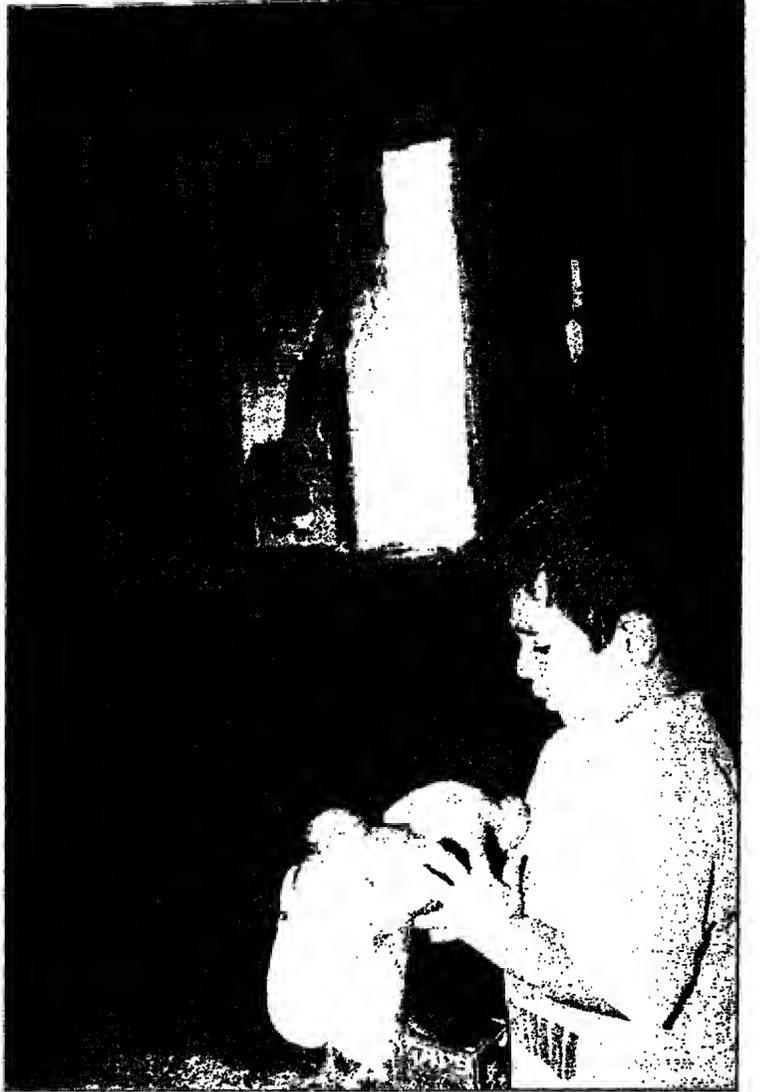
He adds that the arson will not deter him. "I will continue to take aggressive action within the limits of democracy to diminish Reform activities in Mevasseret Zion," he vows.

Barzani says he never heard any threats to "burn" the Reform, claiming these were "products of Mrs. Sorek's wild imagination."

The 41 children of Kehilat Mevasseret Zion are currently in a municipal nursery building, following the council's vote to let them use the building while their burned-out nursery is being repaired. Barzani's was the only "no" vote.

Rabbi Avraham Yosef, the rabbi of Maaz Zion, deplors the arson and says he intends to sermonize against violence. "I'm against the Reform, but I'm also against violence," he says.

Yosef adds that he is convinced the arsonists did not come from Mevasseret Zion. Asked why, he replies, "Whoever heard of a Jew doing such a thing to other Jews?"



Zohar Dardik, 3, examines a toy among the remains of Mevasseret Zion's Reform nursery school, set on fire last weekend. (Ariel Jerolimski)



Azzam in court before the verdict, still hoping for the best. (Reuters)

# The price of doing business in Egypt

The sentencing of Azzam Azzam in Egypt on charges of spying for Israel has raised tension between the two countries. Many believe the verdict will not only deter Israelis from doing business in Egypt, but will also impact on Cairo's international trade. Herb Keinon reports



Dvora Ganani lived and did business in Egypt for five years before she was forced out. (Israel Hadar)

For the general public, the televised images of a caged, frightened and drawn-looking Azzam Azzam being sentenced in an Egyptian court to 15 years' hard labor for spying were harrowing. For Azzam's family, in the Druse village of Maghar in Galilee, the pictures were undoubtedly nightmarish.

And for Israeli businessmen doing business, or interested in doing business, in Egypt, the images set some warning bells ringing.

"Egypt does not want Israelis," the prime minister's adviser on Druse affairs, Assad Assad, was quoted as saying after the verdict. "This verdict is a clear message to Israeli businessmen who are operating in Egypt."

Azzam, 36, worked as a mechanic at the joint Egyptian-Israeli Tefron textile factory in Cairo, and lived in Egypt for six months prior to his arrest. "Business with Egypt cannot just go on as usual," said a senior official at the Ministry of Industry and Trade. "The Israeli businessman cannot be certain that he will not be taken hostage."

Just ask Dvora Ganani. Ganani, a former spokeswoman for the Health and Tourism ministries, lived in Cairo for five years - where she owned a car, apartment and office - and was the doyenne of the Israeli business community in Egypt.

arrested. Labor Party Chairman Ehud Barak happened to be in Egypt.

He convinced the Egyptian authorities to let her return with him to Israel, and convinced Ganani to do the same. "If I am a spy, everyone is a spy," Ganani said.

She added that she was on the verge of coupling a number of Israeli firms with Egyptian counterparts in order to begin joint ventures in Egypt. "I brought money and business to Egypt," she said. "To this day I have no idea what the problem was."

**"It is sad that this is the way the Egyptians treat someone like me, an investor who was brave enough to buy an office there, and to build there. Five years ago they opened the doors for me, now they've closed them."**

-Dvora Ganani

Ganani said she was told through Egyptian Foreign Minister Amir Moussa's office that she would not be allowed back into Egypt. "It is sad that this is the way they treat someone like me, an investor who was brave enough to buy an office there, and build there. Five years ago the Egyptians opened the doors for me, now they've closed them," Ganani said. "I have no idea what their

intentions are."

Gil Feiler, managing director of Info-Prod Research (Middle East) Ltd., a Tel Aviv-based firm that specializes in promoting joint ventures in the Arab world, comments that making things easy for Israeli investors is not one of Cairo's priorities.

Last year, according to government figures, trade with Egypt amounted to \$57.5 million in exports, and \$25 million worth of imports.

"They [the Egyptians] could triple the trade with no problem," Feiler said. "That they are not doing so is because of political reasons, and their own internal calculations."

Feiler said it is obvious that the Azzam affair will have a definite deterrent impact on Israelis interested in doing business in Egypt.

But what should really concern the Egyptians, he said, is the impact it may have on international businessmen as well. "Egypt today is one of the best business opportunities in the Middle East," he said. "However, when they make problems for Israeli businessmen, it doesn't help their image."

Feiler said that the arrest and conviction of Azzam, taken together with other developments in the country such as the CNN report on female genital mutilation in Egypt, the detention of Israeli businesspeople at Egyptian border crossings and Islamic fundamentalism, leave a negative imprint on the businessman just searching for a quiet place to make a buck.

Moshe Kobi, who deals with Israel-Egypt trade at the Finance Ministry, says that the influence of the Azzam affair will be most pronounced on small investors. He said that they are likely to be deterred, not only because of a concern for their own physical well-being, but also because of a "concern for the security of their investments."

Ganani, for instance, now has investments in Egypt she cannot access. One man, who for business reasons demanded anonymity, called the Azzam case a very dark cloud. "People who

travel there a great deal are afraid," he said. "It is symbolic of the state of our relations, and it sits heavy in the back of my mind."

But Ya'acov Yisraeli, a Tel Aviv-based attorney who represents a number of Israelis with business links in Egypt, said there are not a lot of Israelis who travel frequently to Egypt for business. No one was able to provide a figure on the number of Israelis who, like Azzam, work there on a full-time basis, although all agreed the number was no more than a "few" individuals.

Yisraeli divided business dealings with Egypt into three categories: agriculture, joint ventures and large projects. The agricultural endeavors, he said, are either Egyptian farms run with Israeli know-how, or Israeli companies that grow produce in Egypt and then market it in Europe.

The joint ventures consist of Israeli firms which set up companies in Egypt with Egyptian

partners.

This company then manufactures the goods, usually textiles, and markets them in Egypt or the Arab world. In these cases, Yisraeli said, the Israelis generally come in and help set up the companies, and then leave Egypt, relegating day-to-day management to fax and phone contact.

"The types of investment to be hit the hardest by the Azzam case," he said, are long-term projects, such as desalination. These enterprises, he said, often entail a degree of long-range commitment, investment and trust which, in the current climate of relations between Egypt and Israel, are hard to come by.

Yisraeli said he himself is not afraid of traveling to Egypt, which he does a few times a year, even after the Azzam affair. But, he said, the incident "has raised the tension harometer. And it is well known," he added, "that businesses look for tranquility."

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MIDDLE ISRAEL

# What is journalism?



By AMOTZ ASA-EL

It was a misty night, recalled former CBS president Fred Friendly, his thickly bespectacled septuagenarian eyes laden with nostalgia, pride and gospel, "when Ed Murrow and I stood on a London rooftop and waited for the Luftwaffe's bombers to penetrate the clouds above us."

When, after a seemingly endless wait, a few dim lights appeared in the sky, attached to roaring Messerschmidt engines and potent payloads, the two began describing the view: the start of the Battle of Britain.

Wars, to be sure, had been described in detail since antiquity, but Murrow and Friendly spoke into a telephone receiver, which transmitted the cacophonous sounds of heavy bombardment surrounding them to millions of breathless listeners on the other side of the Atlantic.

"That," said Friendly to yet another class at Columbia

University's School of Journalism, "is what it's about: telling it as it is, writing history's first draft, and sharing it with the public — so that the people shall know."

Indeed, that is — or ought to be — the essence of news reporting. The journalistic profession has developed dramatically since Julius Caesar etched assorted bits of information — from tales of his military triumphs to arrival and departure times of merchant boats — in stone tablets positioned along Rome's forum, so that the people shall know.

Already that early meeting of ruler and people through the former's selected news and self-styled medium was satisfying the thirst for information and the urge to supply it, which some believe are built into the human brain.

The mounted messenger network operated by Persian emperor Xerxes, as described in the Book of Esther, was a perfection of Caesar's tool, now an element of movement was introduced into the system — so that the people shall know.

And once the printing press was invented, European entrepreneurs began publishing journals in as many copies as the market would demand, thus introducing that idol and Satan of our industry, circulation, that cruel gauge of how many

people actually want to know. Naturally, with the introduction of movement, circulation and private ownership, the media posed a threat to the political powers that be. For a few generations, an assortment of laws, taxes and intimidation tactics were devised in an effort to thwart the press's desire to inform. Gradually, beginning in England and its American colonies some three centuries ago, these were mostly done away with, so that the people shall know.

There remained, of course, the problem of speed.

When French Catholics massacred hundreds of Huguenots in 1572, the news had to be quickly relayed to the Vatican. Back then it was considered a great achievement that the news — through the Tassi family's private network of messengers — managed to travel the distance from Paris to Rome, through the Alps, in 11 days.

Surely that 11-day transmission would have boggled the minds of Murrow and Friendly, in the unlikely event that they would have pondered it while broadcasting a war, live, in action, to millions of listeners thousands of miles away. But then, the same would have been true for the gap between that London rooftop's audio show and the satellite-transmitted footage which Peter Arnett

broadcast from Baghdad in 1990. The bottom line of all this is that the business of popular information is developing more rapidly than anyone can monitor, and it's high time all those involved in it assessed its costs and benefits.

Princess Diana's death this week, whether her driver was drunk or sober, came while people who purport to be photojournalists besieged her car. Now, we the media had better shout at those impersonators from the depth of our lungs: Paparazzism isn't journalism. Voyeurism has nothing to do with history's first draft. It dwells on the trivial, anecdotal and strictly private, and rather than seek to inform so that the people shall know, it seeks to expose, so that the people shall drool from the mouth.

The spread of freedom and the advancement of technology have transformed Caesar's old tablets, where the state selected what the people would know, into the media of freedom. Since then, journalists ranging from Theodor Herzl to Bob Woodward redefined the role of public information, ultimately toppling rulers, creating states, and — as Murrow did in the 1950s, this time as a TV pioneer — send a democratic menace like Joe McCarthy into history's dustbin.

Like any other power, this one

too was likely to be abused, as it has been for at least a century, since America's so-called muckraking penny papers routinely besmirched individuals, regardless of reality.

And yet the paparazzi's journalistic malpractice represents a new, intolerable level, since their habitually misguided weapon is so potent that it may harm the rest of the media's hard-won freedom and sway.

In essence, paparazzi are to journalism what kick-boxing is to sports, what opium growers are to farming and what pornography is to art.

Yes, they satisfy deep-seated demands, among both their celebrity subjects and their tabloid-reading public. Yet what they are doing is sucking the blood of a morally indispensable and socially invaluable profession.

Napoleon said that each of his soldiers carried in his backpack a marshal's baton. With today's equipment, journalists may be carrying not only Herzl's inkwell, Fred Friendly's microphone and Peter Arnett's lens, but also autocratic Caesar's stone tablets and despotic Xerxes's mounted messengers. Ours has become a power at least as potent as that of governments. If we won't check it ourselves, someone else will.

## Dry Bones



SHABBAT SHALOM

## A delicate balance



Parshat Shoffim

By SHILOMO RUSKIN

"Do not pervert justice, and do not give special consideration to anyone..." (Deut. 16:19)

Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveichik would tell the following story about his grandfather, the legendary R. Haim of Brisk. Once, when still a child, the future Torah giant ran to his father, crying, "Why are you crying?" His father explained that his brother Shmuelik had wanted to hit him.

"And how do you know he wanted to hit you?" the little boy was asked.

"Because he hit me."

The father, surprised, asked: "Why then didn't you complain that your brother hit you?"

"Well," explained the young R. Haim, "whenever your students suggest a Talmudic interpretation, you ask them to prove their contention. Had I said that Shmuelik hit me, I couldn't prove it. I didn't have two witnesses. Therefore, I could only say that Shmuelik wanted to hit me — the proof being that he actually did!"

If you like this story, chances are the study of Talmud is for you, not because of the hairsplitting but because of the young boy's ability to sense legal subtleties, to conceptualize issues of testimony and evidence despite his smarting face.

But this same story can also provide ammunition with which to denigrate Jewish law; after all, if there are no witnesses, he wasn't hit! Indeed, the critics would argue that the law of Moses has become antiquated and has been replaced by the love in the Christian Gospels. The popular conception is that the Torah is often merciless.

Citing various passages to substantiate such claims, the evidence would no doubt include the opening verses in this week's portion of Shoftim, where the Torah commands us to appoint judges who "shall not give special consideration to anyone..." (Deut. 16:19). This sounds laudable enough, but when taken in conjunction with other admonitions such as "Do not pervert justice, do not give special consideration to the poor..." (Lev. 19:15) or "Do not favor the poorest man in a lawsuit" (Ex. 23:3), one emerges with the notion that when it comes to law, extenuating circumstances are totally ignored.

All of the above would seem to justify accusations that Judaism revolves around the strict letter of the law. But then we remember the biblical definition of God — or at least the aspect of the Divine that can be grasped by the human intellect: "The Lord, the Lord, God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth" (Ex. 34:6). And if the central biblical commandment is for humans to emulate God ("And you shall walk in His ways"), then

clearly we must express love and compassion in our legal system! This approach is clearly borne out by the Talmud, the source of law in our daily lives.

Consider the well-known incident involving two porters who negligently break a barrel of wine while working for the wealthy sage, Rabba bar bar Hana. Since they are destitute, Rabba asks for their cloaks as reimbursement for the damage they caused. The porters present their case to Rav, the legal authority at the time, who rules in their favor. "Is this the law?" exclaims Rabba.

"In this case it is," rules Rav, quoting a verse in Proverbs: "That you may walk in the way of good men..." (2:20). Now the porters, obviously spooked by their good fortune, press a claim for wages, and Rav rules that Rabba must pay them.

"Is this the law?" he spatters once again, and Rav again responds: "In this case it is," citing the latter part of the verse in Proverbs: "...and maintain the paths of the righteous."

Here we see how a judgment was influenced by outside factors: not only the empty pockets of the porters, but the financial and intellectual status of Rabba bar bar Hana, who would not be a righteous man in the eyes of the Torah if he stood on the letter of the law.

In effect, the story teaches us that for certain individuals, compassion becomes law. Indeed, the Talmud rules (B.T. Sanhedrin 6a) that when two individuals come before a judge, they must first be asked if they wish *bitzua*, which does not mean compromise, or an out-of-court settlement, but rather a judgment which takes into account the circumstances involved. This is called *lifnim mi-shurat ha-din* — or going beyond the requirements of law and deciding in accordance with the requirement of love. The Talmud rules that the commandment which devolves upon all judges is to decide in accord with *bitzua*.

This concept of going "beyond the law" is one of the foundations of Judaism. Among the reasons given in the Talmud as to why Jerusalem was destroyed, Rabbi Yohanan says that when it came to court cases, the judgments did not go beyond the requirements of the law (Bava Metzta 30b). Thus this concept of love and compassion becomes one of the pivotal forces in Jewish life. But if this is correct, why does the Torah seem to project one image of law while the Talmud projects another?

The truth is that there must always be a tension. On a certain level, there must be objective legal standards, with objective legal, societal demands. If that were not the case, the poor and underprivileged would constantly take advantage of their legal edge to wreak havoc on society. "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" must always be tempered by "Thou shalt not commit adultery" — too much loving can uproot the very foundation of society. The written law therefore must insist upon objective legal standards; the oral law must grant leeway to temper the law with compassion when the situation warrants it.

Our Torah is a synthesis of law and love, truth and peace, each of which must be blended with the other if our humanity is to prevail.

Shabbat Shalom

A VIEW FROM NOV



By MOSHE KOHN

One of the great American journalists of the first half of our century was Pulitzer Prize-winning writer, editor and public official Herbert Bayard Swope (1882-1958).

Shortly before his death he wrote in the (now defunct) *New York Herald Tribune*: "The first duty of a newspaper is to be accurate. If it is accurate, it follows that it is fair."

Accuracy in journalistic reporting ideally means not merely presenting verifiable facts, but presenting all the relevant facts. It also requires reporters to strive to the best of their human ability to present what they observed or heard in proper order and according to proper weight. If they don't, their editors should set them straight.

Accuracy also requires editors to have reporters of proven reliability and integrity.

Furthermore, unless the editors know something the reporters don't, they shouldn't alter the reporter's emphases in the course of cutting the story "to fit." Nor should they feature in the headline a detail to which the reporter attached less than primary importance, or a detail that tells only part of the story thus distorting it.

A good example of such accuracy was the August 26 report of Voice of America's Jerusalem correspondent, Al Pessin, on that day's violent demonstration in Bethlehem against the city's closure. His report reflected a characteristic Arabist attitude — and, for that matter, an attitude of many mediocrities, including those who chased Princess Diana and her consort and chauffeur to their death in Paris last Saturday night — to human well-being.

Pessin reported: "Stones flew from a crowd of about 20 Palestinian youths... The [Israeli] soldiers [guarding Rachel's Tomb] responded with tear gas and some gunfire. Palestinian sources say that a dozen schoolgirls were treated for teargas inhalation and about five other people were injured by rubber bullets."

Then Pessin reported a detail I don't remember seeing in any other version: "An ambulance which came for one of the girls waited patiently as a succession of television news crews came to its back door to videotape the girl inside."

The question arises: If that girl really needed the help of an ambulance or emergency-ward team, did she also "wait patiently"?

In that connection, one may also question the authenticity of that incident. Some children and adults are shown holding their noses or covering them with kerchiefs apparently against teargas, with their eyes showing apparent dis-

ress, while other children or adults in the same photo simply look on without any noseholding or distress in their eyes.

Pessin quoted Palestinian "Minister of Commerce and Economics" Maher al-Masri as saying the PA "wants to stick with the Oslo agreements."

That is an excellent idea! (Thanks to Dr. Joseph Lerner of Jerusalem, codirector of IMRA/Independent Media Review & Analysis, for the text of Pessin's report from the VOA website.)

HERE IS an example of inaccurate journalism.

Several months ago *Yedioth Aharonot* headlined a story: "Poll: Jewish majority favors Palestinian state." The story's lead told us in bold type that this was happening for the first time in Israel's history.

The Modi'in Ezrahi poll showed that 51.3% of Israel's Jews polled support the establishment of a Palestinian state. The idea was opposed by 44.2%, and 4.5% took no stand.

What the headline didn't say, but the story did, in the third paragraph, is that those 51.3% of the 503 Jews polled supported the idea "if [the] establishment [of a Palestinian state] would lead to true peace between Israel and the Palestinians."

There is no way, of course, for us mortals to be certain of how such state would behave. All we can do is decide, on the basis of the present conduct and rhetoric of the Arabs, especially those calling themselves Palestinians, whether

or not to risk it.

Indeed, if our Arab interlocutors consistently showed in both speech and action that they truly meant a peace aiming at relations at least on the level of US-Canadian relations, I venture to guess that 99.9% of Israel's Jews would favor the establishment of a Palestinian state. I would be among that majority.

The story also failed to mention that such polls have a margin of error of about +/- 4 percentage points. So the 51.3% majority was hardly something to shout about in a headline.

Susie Dym of Rebovot, a spokesperson for the City Committee for a Strong Israel (CCSI), complained to the Press Council that the newspaper's handling of that story was misleading. On July 13, the council informed Dym that it accepted the newspaper's rejection of her complaint.

Whatever one may think ideologically of David Ben-Gurion's actions, supported by his government, in ordering the bombardment of the *Atlatena* and the disbandment of the Palmah in 1948, he and his government could not do otherwise if they were to lead and if the threat of Chinese mandarin-style anarchy and private militias was to be avoided.

Arafat and the PA must do the same, if they really seek peace with us and if they really seek to establish and build a healthy "Palestinian" nation.

E-mail comments to: moshe@post.co.il. Please include home address.

in last year's prime ministerial election and 86.4% of Netanyahu supporters thought the PA should outlaw Hamas, while 12.6% and 2.2%, respectively, did not.

Men and women differed significantly: 10.7% of the men voted no, as compared to only 2.5% of the women. But 78.4% of the men, and 80.8% of the women voted yes, and 7.6% of the former and 11.9% of the latter didn't know. The remainder refused to answer.

Outlawing Hamas would be a real earnest of the PA's intentions. There is no acceptable "explanation" why that murder gang should be allowed to function or exist at all in civilized society.

As for the risks involved for Yasser Arafat and the PA in such an action — if they wish to lead their people to a decent existence, they must take those risks.

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**DRIVE CAREFULLY**

# Princess who spoke to

She could walk with kings and still let the supermarket cashier feel that she shared her dreams and heartaches.



## Stardust and sympathy

Diana was the bebop princess who understood the pulse of the times because she was of the times.

By BARBARA AMIEL

I can't help thinking that Moslems and Jews have the right idea when they demand that their dead be buried within 24 hours. Though my interest in the life of the Princess of Wales remains undiminished after hours of television, *de mortuis nil nisi bonum* notwithstanding, the more time passes, the more contradictions in every life great and small become evident. Or do they?

Shakespeare understood the matter when he penned Antony's oration at the death of Julius Caesar. "The evil that men do lives after them," he wrote. "The good is oft interred with their bones." Just as Shakespeare knew the truth was also the precise opposite, so it is with the death of Diana. Her tragic end has buried all the flaws, while the good lives on.

London has become a Fellini movie. People stand for seven hours to sign a book of condolences. Under normal circumstances they would by now have massacred each other in amacks of queue rage. Will Lord Lloyd Webber get the first two songs of *Diana, The Musical* written before London's Millennium Dome has been named after her?

Much emphasis is now put on Diana's charitable work and her warm and caring manner.

She was able to reduce the estimable Dr. Henry Kissinger to Jell-O, help the terminally ill smile, and get my secretary to work 10 hours overtime just on the chance of opening a door for her.

A temporary industry has grown up of People Who Knew Her. Trouble is, human beings are so made that most of us don't really know what goes on behind the eyes of those closest to us, let alone the Kohl-ringed eyes of a woman of as many parts as Diana. She lived, frankly, on the edge. On the one hand she was trying, quite successfully, to maintain a parallel court to the queen's which would allow her to retain a public presence in her charity work and give her quasi-official duties abroad.

At the same time, she wanted her personal life to be private while she enjoyed the lifestyle of a film star, complete with affairs, public weeps and personal confessions. These several aspects were doomed to collide, and those close to her could see the razor's edge.

The funeral is set and the queen has wisely and generously decided to give the divorced wife who lacked the mystical tide of Her

Royal Highness a state funeral, though it is not quite a state funeral.

It is, explains a palace spokesman, a "unique" occasion for a unique person. Just as the Chinese absorbed their conquerors, the House of Windsor will rightly make the legend of Diana its own.

Anger against the press is grumbling along. The press, of course, have little interest in members of the royal family who simply walk their dogs, go to church, open fetes and do their duty. But Diana was a chameleon. She wanted the paparazzi present on Tuesday, but not on Wednesday.

The struggle to hijack her legend is already on. British Prime Minister Tony Blair has called Diana "the people's princess," aka New Labor's goddess. That she cared about the sick, helpless and weak is beyond a doubt. But she also wanted a private jet as part of her divorce settlement, and spent forever in gyms and at couriers. She seems marginally unsuitable as a people's icon.

But somehow, because of the stardust that coated her and the warmth she could exude, whether to a Bosnian war refugee or the editor of *Vogue*, she did in fact belong to everyone.

Diana had virtually no historical awareness of her role as possible queen of England or mother of the future king, nor had she much interest in statecraft. She certainly didn't set out to undermine the monarchy, nor was she particularly concerned to help it. Still, help it she did.

The worst thing that can happen to an institution such as a constitutional monarchy is boredom or irrelevancy. The less relevant it is in actually running the country, the more important it is for the monarchy to stay alive in the public consciousness. Essentially, the British monarchy, which I happen to favor, is an increasingly beleaguered institution. But all the royal family's earnest efforts to modernize have proved to be somewhat like the liberalization of the established church.

The more it tries to achieve relevance and get closer to the people, the more it loses the majesty of its *raison d'être*.

Diana was of a different stripe. She gave the British people their first up-to-date fairy-tale princess *à la Grace Kelly* - except she was not borrowed from Hollywood.

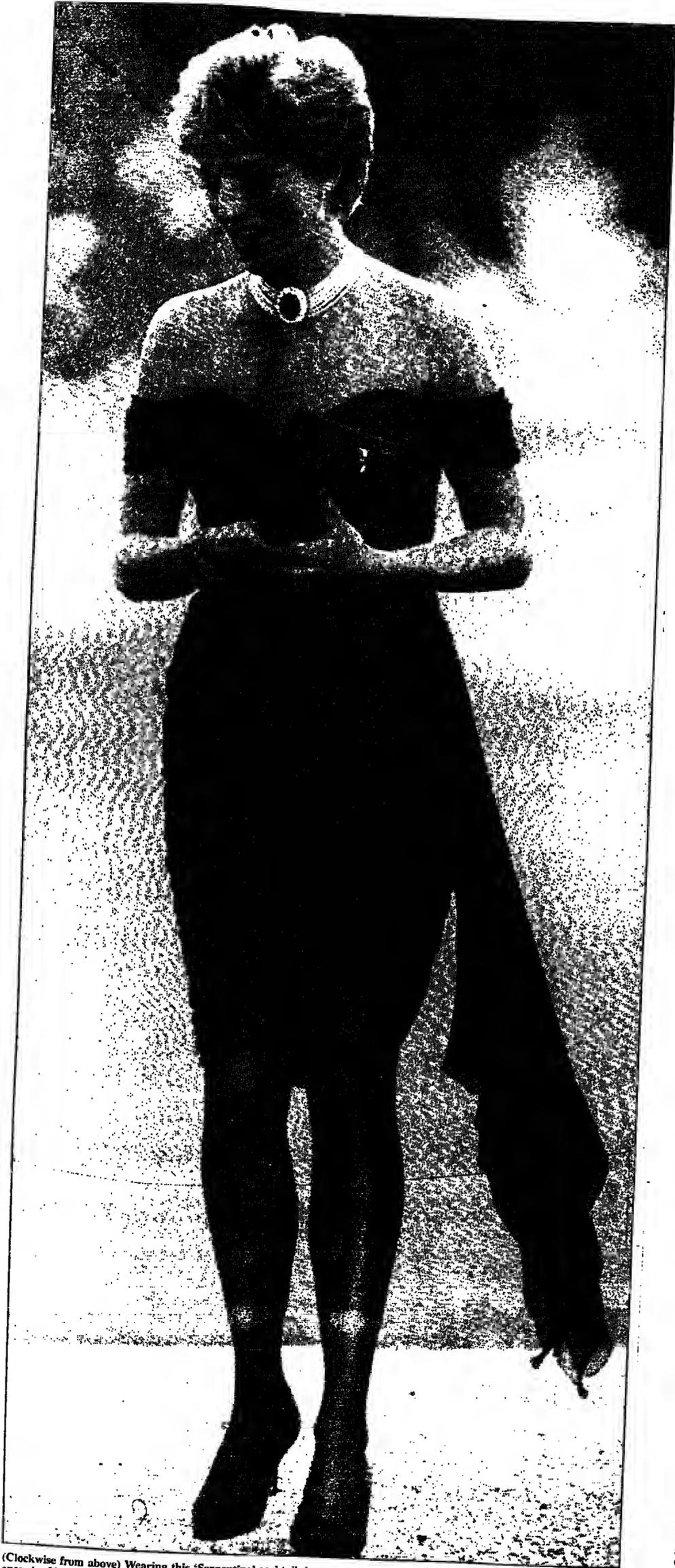
Her contradictions - mirrored those of many of her would-be subjects. She was a willful wife and a vulnerable single woman. As a mother she seemed to be a devoted New Age Auntie Mame whose children adored her, though occasionally needed to rescue her. Her lack of pomposity and stuffiness, her stunning beauty and wardrobe to match, revived the monarchy, just as the films of Rogers and Astaire brought glamour and glitz to dreary England after the war. Her sons will inherit her legend, and the British monarchy will be the beneficiary.

Diana had wanted to be the queen of hearts, but the irony is that her power came from the human need for hierarchy. We are as hierarchical as jackdaws, and while aristocratic hierarchies are outdated today and most societies are arranged along republican lines, one of the first things each society does is create its own "glittery." America turns movie stars into princes and princesses. But we had the real thing.

We got the bebop princess who understood the pulse of the times because she was of the times. Rudyard Kipling contended that one had to walk with kings and have the common touch. Simply having the common touch made one, well, just common.

Diana had enough of the right stuff to create the image that she could walk with kings and still let the supermarket cashier feel that she shared her dreams and heartaches.

Now Diana is gone, she's missed like the blazes and I don't see her like among us. But the queen and her heirs have enough of the real stuff to harness this passion for Britain's good.



(Clockwise from above) Wearing this 'Serpentine' cocktail dress in 1995 - or anything else - photographers couldn't get enough of her; fun in a boat on holiday with sons William and Harry; next to singer elton John at a memorial service for murdered designer Gianni Versace.

(AP)



# The Middle East on the Hill

## Here's what Israel, the Palestinian Authority and Jordan can look forward to as the US Congress goes back to work after the summer break. Hillel Kuttler reports from Washington

The Senate and House returned to work Tuesday in the hope of tackling their agenda quickly so that the first session of the 105th Congress concludes by early November, in time for yet another break.

A number of key bills remained uncompleted prior to the summer recess and must be voted on. Here is a look at what Israel, the Palestinian Authority and Jordan, among others, have to look forward to in the coming months:

**The Martin Indyk Hearing:** Indyk, who is concluding his ambassadorship in Tel Aviv, will this month come before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that will consider his nomination as assistant secretary of state for Near East Affairs. The Zionist Organization of America has waged an anti-Indyk campaign on Capitol Hill, urging committee members to consider what the group calls Indyk's "meddling" in Israeli politics during the 1996 campaign and his criticism of Israeli peace policies.

A date for the hearing has not yet been set, but it is clear that Indyk is not in for a free ride. In early August, Senators Jon Kyl, a Republican, and Joseph Lieberman, a Democrat, urged committee chairman Jesse Helms to grill Indyk on why the administration isn't taking steps to move the US Embassy to Jerusalem, as mandated by a 1995 law. While the two do not sit on the committee, they were

the first voices of discontent registered on Capitol Hill in advance of the hearing. Kyl, in fact, recently wrote to a constituent to say that his vote on Indyk "will hinge on his support for" four provisions of the State Department authorization bill that recognize Israel's sovereignty in Jerusalem (see below), and on Indyk's "commitment to enforcing" the 1995 legislation. Helms wrote back to Kyl, promising that Indyk will be "pressed hard on the question of the status of Jerusalem." He also urged Kyl and Lieberman to submit additional questions for the record, which the committee normally responds to in writing after the hearing.

In his February 1993 hearing to become ambassador, Indyk told a subcommittee that moving the embassy "would explode" the peace process and put the US "out of business as a facilitator" for Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. He can be expected to continue in that vein when he testifies this time.

Edward Walker's hearing to replace Indyk in Israel is bound to be a walk in the park by comparison.

**The Middle East Peace Facilitation Act (MEPPA):** While Congress was away, MEPPA expired for good - this, after the administration reversed course several times on what to do about the law that waives prohibitions on US dealings with the PLO.

While the only immediate consequence of the law's lapse was the closing of the PLO's Washington office, it is in the administration's interest to resuscitate the legislation. Congress, long a foe of the PLO, is content to wait it out and see what the administration's new game plan is. It is likely to be open to a fair replacement for MEPPA should the upcoming visit of Secretary of State Madeleine Albright prove reassuring, a Congressional source said last week.

But if Congress perceives that PA President Yasser Arafat continues to betray the Oslo Accords, then not only will the minuscule amount of the US' direct financial assistance to the PA be affected, but the nearly \$100 million in US aid for Palestinian infrastructure and humanitarian projects could be

at risk, too. Even with senators and members of the House on vacation, "rumblings about cutting off the aid" were heard from some of their advisers following Arafat's recent embrace of Hamas leaders in Gaza, according to a pro-Israel lobbyist. Those misgivings are likely to intensify in the aftermath of yesterday's terrorist bombings in Jerusalem.

"Unless [Albright] can get something real from Arafat on the security and terrorism front, MEPPA is a dead issue. If Arafat doesn't deliver on security, there's nothing to talk about," the lobbyist said. "And I'd go beyond that - the aid could be affected. It goes into dangerous territory, into whether aid could be given at all. It's gone well beyond MEPPA."

**Foreign aid:** The House is slated to vote soon on the foreign operations bill, after which it goes to the House-Senate conference to merge the two chambers' bills.

Israel, Egypt - and the cause of foreign aid in general - stand to benefit no matter whether what emerges is the Senate version, the House version, or

something in between. That is because for the first time since the 1994 Republican takeover, the US's overall foreign aid budget is not on the chopping block. The House bill contains \$12.2 billion, the same as last year, and the Senate version is actually a billion dollars more than that.

Israel and Egypt will continue receiving their usual \$3 billion and \$2.1 billion, respectively, in annual military and economic assistance.

Jordan stands to receive \$100 million, and perhaps much more, if an amendment sponsored by Senate foreign operations subcommittee chairman Mitch McConnell sticks. In neither bill will Israel and Egypt forfeit the \$50 million each has pledged to divert to Jordan in support of its peacemaking. That will be straightened out by any number of creative bookkeeping options involving Jerusalem, Cairo and Washington.

An important amendment to be finalized by the House-Senate committee would withhold aid to Russia unless the administration certifies Moscow is not selling nuclear technology to Iran.

**PLO-related amendments:** There are several of these. The House bill contains one sponsored by New Jersey Republican James Saxton calling for direct aid to the PA to be withheld for three months unless the president can certify several things, including that the PLO covenant has been changed and that the organization is in the process of bringing to justice five Palestinians involved in the killings of American citizens.

On the Senate side, an amendment authored by Republican Arlen Specter would suspend the PA's aid unless the Justice Department can show that Arafat did not know in advance of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing Specter has made this a pet issue since Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled told *The Jerusalem Post* that Israel has information indicating that Arafat was aware of the plot.

**State Department authorization bill:** An amendment co-sponsored by Republicans John Ashcroft in the Senate and Bill McCollum in the House would prohibit any US financial transactions with Syria because of its sponsorship of terrorism. The administration stands squarely against the amendment because it believes it could alienate Damascus.

For Israel, the key items in the bill are four provisions supporting its sovereignty in Jerusalem. They are: listing "Jerusalem, Israel" (rather than the current "Jerusalem") on the US passport of someone born in the city; should they make the request; having the Jerusalem consulate report to the US Embassy in Israel rather than remain unaffiliated with any embassy; listing Jerusalem as Israel's capital on all official documents, and budgeting \$100 million for the embassy to move to Jerusalem.

Both the foreign operations and State Department authorization bills are likely to be held up for some time due to amendments relating to family planning programs advocated by conservative New Jersey congressman Christopher Smith.

### GRAPEVINE

## Berlitz Haifa remembers Diana

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Although Diana Princess of Wales never visited Israel and was not associated with any projects here, her name will be linked with Israel in perpetuity. Joel Leyden, director of Berlitz International's Executive Programs, announced on Wednesday that Berlitz International's new Haifa Center, officially opened on August 31, would be rededicated in Diana's memory "because she was one of the world's greatest communicators, and perished on the day we officially opened." Noting that the Berlitz slogan is "Helping the world communicate," Leyden said: "We don't want anyone to forget what Diana Princess of Wales did for people worldwide."

The center's change of name, proposed by David Lieber, Berlitz Middle East Region general manager and founder (in 1992) of Berlitz Israel, will be coordinated with the British Embassy, the British Foreign Office and the royal family. In accordance with protocol, no arrangements will be finalized until the official mourning period is over, Leyden said.

SINCE the tragic death of Princess Diana, many celebrities have come out sharply against paparazzi photographers who stalk them wherever they go. In Montreal, actor Rod Steiger turned a tribute in his honor into a tribute to Diana and a denunciation of bloodhound photographers.

HEBREW was barely spoken at the wedding of Yu'acov Sherman and Freydi Kaufman at Jerusalem's Ramat Tamir hotel this week. English was the dominant language, followed closely by French. The families of the young couple are friends and neighbors in Telz Stone, which has a large community of former North Americans. The groom is the fourth of Elyahu (Eliot) and Binyamina Sherman's 10 children, and their first-born son. His six sisters all came dressed in various shades of green. The bride, the first-born and only daughter of Shimon and Rivka Lea Kaufman, formerly of the Bronx, New York, is the youngest of their eight children. The groom's maternal grandmother, 85-year-old Antoinette Feuerwerker, an early haredi feminist who lives in Montreal, was among the numer-

ous overseas guests. Sixty years ago, Feuerwerker earned a law degree in Paris. Her late husband, Rabbi Professor David Feuerwerker, who taught Jewish history at the Sorbonne before moving to Canada, was the first French-speaking member of the Montreal Beit Din. There was a coast-to-coast representation among the Americans in attendance. The groom's father, who hails from California, is the moving force behind a monumental American friendship-for-Israel project being established at Telz Stone with the participation of all 50 states. At one stage, it seemed as if the exquisitely beautiful bride was part of the project. Dancing while held aloft on a circular table top, she kept producing white balloons from a huge silver box and releasing them among the merry-makers.

BEING the prime minister's adviser on Diaspora affairs and sitting on the Neeman Committee on Conversion must be very wearying for Bobby Brown, who was one of two speakers at an Emanah seminar on Israel-Diaspora relations. Brown was so tired that he yawned throughout and didn't once bother to cover his mouth. Could be that in a post-Zionist era, Israel-Diaspora relations are a ho-hum thing.

BROWN's fellow speaker at Emanah was David Ze'ev, diplo-

matic correspondent for Israel Radio's English News. While waiting for the seminar to start, Ze'ev received a beeper message from the Prime Minister's Office. It notified journalists that Binyamin Netanyahu would be taking his son Yair to school the following day, but requested that they desist from coverage so Yair could enjoy his first day, just like any other child. That was a tall order with so many bodyguards around; but compared to the huge photo spreads Yair got when he was on vacation with his parents and young brother, coverage of his first day in grade one was relatively low key.

WHO'S tripping up the Right? Last week former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir stumbled on the stairs while taking his constitutional on the Tel Aviv beachfront. And this week, Foreign Minister David Levy suffered a more embarrassing fall on the stairs while on his way to a cabinet meeting. Fortunately both men have bodyguards with quick reflexes, so they were almost instantly back on their feet again.

THE ambassador of Slovakia, Frantisek Dlhopecek, and his wife Dagmar had Slovakian delicacies flown into Israel for the reception they held at their Herzliya Pituhah home to celebrate Slovakia's National Day. In addition to the beer, wine, sausages and pork products, they also served *halusky* with *brnyco* which, to the uninitiated, are potato noodles covered with sheep's milk cheese. Vegetarians must have been delighted.

MACCABI Tel Aviv basketball captain Nadav Henefeld and team member Oded Katch kicked off the annual Variety Golden Hearts campaign on the eve of their flight to Moscow. Accompanied by Variety president Ori Slonim, they stood at one of the Hamashbir stores and encouraged customers to buy a Variety heart in addition to their other purchases. Funds raised from the sale of hearts will help needy children, especially those with physical or mental disabilities.

AFTER the general warning about the dangers of cleaning and eating fish, broadcasting personality Rafi Gimat and his wife Nava were in two minds about hosting the Fish Breeders



Rod Steiger (I.R.P.A.)



Maccabi Tel Aviv basketball captain Nadav Henefeld and Variety president Ori Slonim lend Hamashbir stores a helping hand.

**SRULIK** by DOSH

Dr. Herzl, I HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU!

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BUT I SEE PROBLEMS TOO! THE JEWISH STATE WILL FACE MANY GROSS DIFFICULTIES... DR. HERZL, WAIT! LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THEM!

Not now.

**CRYPTIC CROSSWORD**

ACROSS

- Forestall an involuntary movement, one with head (10)
- Bit of cotton wool was horribly black (4)
- It may give the meal a bit of lift (4-6)
- Boy to become a singer (4)
- Soldier finds nothing in report brought back (7)
- Secured mineral supply held by defence ministry (6)
- Ocean, boy, is salt (6)
- Politician is generous to opponent of tyranny (7,8)
- Indian city of very enthusiastic painters (6)
- Rely on departure before the conclusion (6)

DOWN

- Item of clothing for the Cornish consumer? (7)
- Nothing to hold a tack (4)
- Making a priest interrupt address by loud noise (10)
- Indicate to put name (4)
- State of enthusiasm always found in loud sales talk? (5,5)
- Maid employed partly as assistant (4)
- Monument to doctor... (4)
- Timid man, but firm with section of hospital (6)
- Dreadful occasion—I helped give lethal cup (8,7)

**SOLUTIONS**

Yesterday's Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Shorten, 5 Suite, 6 Extra, 9 Trailing, 10 Trawler, 11 Title, 12 Method, 14 Myriad, 17 Night, 19 Playful, 22 Chorale, 23 Audit, 24 Nurse, 29 Hammer.

DOWN: 1 Street, 2 Outcast, 3 Trail, 4 Nature, 5 Swarthy, 6 Idiot, 7 Egghead, 13 Mosaic, 15 Outrage, 16 Infidel, 18 Appar, 19 Green, 20 Alarm, 21 Later.

**QUICK CROSSWORD**

ACROSS

- Single girls (6)
- Defeated (6)
- Disclosure (7)
- Overweight (5)
- Flightless South American bird (4)
- Cured pork (5)
- Alleviate (5)
- Skilful (4)
- Play (5)
- Improve (7)
- Weaken (6)
- Recess (6)

DOWN

- Entreat (7)
- Embarrassed (7)
- Rot (5)
- Pressure spray (7)
- Not the same (5)
- Enrage (5)
- Forced apart (9)
- SE European country (7)
- Forseke (7)
- Adorn with gems (7)
- Acknowledge (5)
- Army barracks (5)
- Pro-like cold (5)

*L'expression personnelle*

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BEING the prime minister's adviser on Diaspora affairs and sitting on the Neeman Committee on Conversion must be very wearying for Bobby Brown, who was one of two speakers at an Emanah seminar on Israel-Diaspora relations. Brown was so tired that he yawned throughout and didn't once bother to cover his mouth. Could be that in a post-Zionist era, Israel-Diaspora relations are a ho-hum thing.

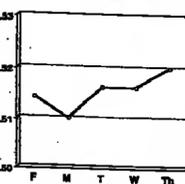
BROWN's fellow speaker at Emanah was David Ze'ev, diplo-

Handwritten signature: J.P. Kuttler

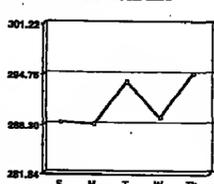
## MARKETS

in brief

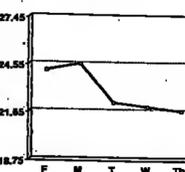
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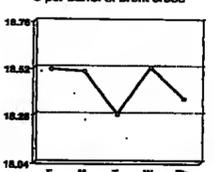
MAOF INDEX



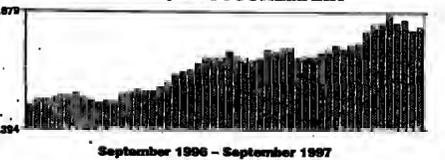
GOLD \$ per ounce



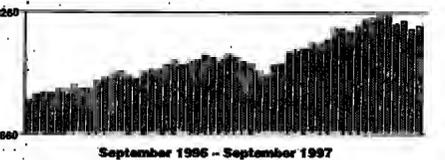
OIL \$ per barrel of Brent crude



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



### Dead Sea Works cancels \$300m. venture

The management of Dead Sea Works decided to cancel a project to construct a titanium dioxide factory in Sodom at a cost of \$300 million. DSW general manager and chairman of the board, Uri Ben-Nun yesterday confirmed.

This followed a failure to find a strategic foreign partner who would make a significant investment in the venture.

The company negotiated for a long time with US chemical giant DuPont to enter into partnership in the project, but the negotiations failed to bring results, despite the fact that the late Shaul Eisenberg himself had personally been negotiating with the US firm.

Following the failure of negotiations with DuPont, the company entered into negotiations with British firm ICI, which produces titanium dioxide, as well as a number of European and US manufacturers, but without success.

The company hoped to find a strategic partner for the project - similar to its partnership with Volkswagen in the magnesium factory - primarily due to the size of required investment, and because this is a new area of manufacture for DSW.

Globes News Service

## Treasury set to present NIS 2.3 billion in cuts

By FELICE MARANZ

The Finance Ministry has prepared NIS 2.3 billion in budget cuts for 1998 and is scheduled to present them to the cabinet on Sunday.

As of last night, it wasn't yet clear whether the budget debate would be rescheduled due to the terror attack in Jerusalem.

The Treasury's plan includes cuts for each ministry, except Health. At the same time, public health care institutions will be

allowed to raise fees.

The ministry also intends to reduce child subsidies for middle- and upper-income families, which it said will save NIS 500 million.

"For every proposal, there will be a lobby to say: 'It's the worst thing,'" said David Milgrom, head of the ministry's budget department. The cuts "are a continuation of our message that the government should make itself smaller and the business sector should flourish."

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman promised not to raise taxes. "The tax burden on the people is negative and hurts growth. Our goal is to promote growth," he said.

The budget framework calls for a trimmer budget, with a deficit target of NIS 8.5b., or 2.4% of gross domestic product.

Last month, the cabinet passed the framework of the budget and proposals for economic reform.

Separately, Neeman has also developed a plan designed to

allow thousands of yeshiva students, currently supported by the government, to serve in the army and enter the workforce.

"Yeshiva students study logic for years; they are excellent material," Neeman said. For example, "they can become programmers, and Israel needs thousands of programmers."

The deficit from January through August in 1997 was NIS 6.7b., and the government is likely to miss its target by "a tenth of a percentage point," the Finance

Ministry said earlier this week.

The government's deficit target for this year is NIS 9.744b., or 2.8% of GDP.

Growth was lower than forecast in the first half of 1997, rising at an annual rate of 1.6%, rising at an annual rate of 1.6% in the second quarter. The ministry last year predicted growth rate of 4% in all of 1997; in July, it revised its expectations down to 2.5%. The Finance Ministry expects the economy to grow at a pace of between 3% and 3.5% in 1998. (Bloomberg)

## Merrill Lynch mulls buyout of IBI

Globes News Service

US investment bank Merrill Lynch and Tel Aviv based brokerage IBI are exploring various ways to cooperate, including merger and buyout, sources close to the talks yesterday said.

IBI is the largest private brokerage here. Merrill Lynch is the largest brokerage house in the US.

Closer cooperation between the two, by merger, buyout, or investment by Merrill Lynch in IBI, is expected to create the strongest brokerage house in Israel. It would be considerably stronger than any private broker in the Israeli market, and might be strong enough to compete against the commercial banks.

The two firms are already working together. For all intents and

purposes, IBI is acting as Merrill Lynch's agent in Israel. IBI has acted as its representative in most of the large transactions undertaken by Merrill Lynch here.

The largest deal involved the purchase this summer by Merrill Lynch of 12.5% of Bezeq's equity. Other investments were made in Agis and Liraz.

However, until now the two companies have only cooperated commercially without mutual ownership, but this is now under consideration. Nevertheless, discussions are at an early stage; no formal negotiations have yet taken place.

There is a precedent for foreign investment in an local brokerage house: Swedish brokerage house Proventus owns part of the controlling shares of Nessuah.

## Malaysia rescinds stock market limits

By JANE LEE

KUALA LUMPUR (Bloomberg) - In what may signal the calm after the storm which recently plagued most Asian currencies, Malaysia will remove trading restrictions on the 100 stocks of the benchmark Composite Index effective today, Finance Minister Anwar Ibrahim said.

"From detailed reports by the Securities Commission, the stock exchange, and discussion with the private sector in the past few days, we have found that we have achieved the aim that we set," Anwar told reporters. The aim was

to "prevent the manipulation of shares."

The Composite Index has fallen 14% since August 27, when the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange restricted trading on the stocks that make up the benchmark index in a bid to make it more difficult for investors to sell borrowed shares short, in hopes they can be repurchased later at a lower price.

The rule change required investors to pay in full for the shares they purchase. Under the change, the seller also had to deliver the shares before a contract was signed.

## Soros Foundation abandons hard-line Belarus

By ELAINE MONAGHAN

MINSK (Reuters) - A leading international humanitarian organization founded by multi-millionaire George Soros said on Wednesday it had been hounded out of Belarus by

the former Soviet republic's authorities with demands for tax and threats of prosecution.

The Soros Foundation, set up by Soros to promote democracy in countries emerging from communism, announced at a news confer-

ence in the Belarussian capital that it was pulling out.

"The closure...is part of a program of activities by the Belarussian authorities aimed at destroying civil society and independent mass media," it said in a statement.

John Fox, head of the Open Society Institute in Washington, the umbrella body to which the group belongs, told reporters local staff were being harassed by tax police.

He said Soros groups had never before been shut down in a former Communist country. "The Belarussian authorities have distinguished themselves by forcing us to close," he said.

In March, President Alexander Lukashenko announced checks on social organizations he said were breaking the law.

The foundation said it had been repeatedly questioned by tax police ever since, its bank accounts had been frozen and it had been ordered to pay \$3 million in tax despite previous assurances it was exempt.

Two days after the checks were announced, Soros's local executive Peter Byrne, a US citizen, was barred from entering the country, detained for 18 hours and deported. State television said he took part in

illegal protests and accused the group of backing "enemies of the state."

The foundation denies this and says its \$13 million in grants since 1993 have gone to projects in education, science, culture, mass media and Internet development.

A legal expert, Sergei Levshunov, who worked with the Soros group, said it had paid for heat operations on 33 children last year who would otherwise have died.

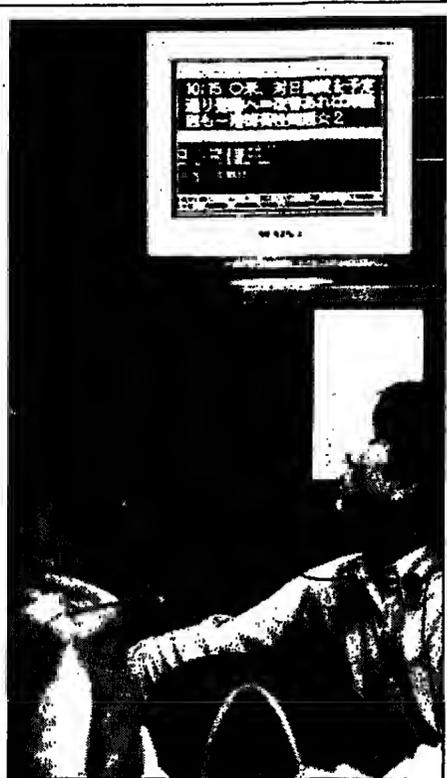
Alex Antipenko, who took over from the deported Byrne, spoke of "hundreds of thousands of wasted opportunities for young people to make contact with their peers abroad."

Robert Kushen of the Open

Society Institute said the allegations against the group and its staff, which included tax and hard currency violations, were "completely unjustified."

The Foreign Ministry had no immediate comment but the head of the president's press service said the Soros group was "a bit strange" and the recent talks with the group were "probably not important enough for the president to comment on."

Lukashenko, a former farm boss who swept to victory in 1994, has since used referendum wins to tighten his grip on all branches of power and his only real domestic opposition comes from independent mass media.



US declares shipping war on Japan

A money trader at the Tokyo Foreign Exchange looks at a TV news update which says that the US government is to impose sanctions on Japanese shipping companies. (AP)

## Scitex signs strategic pact with Japan's Komori

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Scitex and Japan's Komori Corp. yesterday announced a strategic alliance for the joint development and marketing of products and workflow solutions.

The companies said at a trade exhibition in Chicago that they aim to further integrate pre-press and printing functions.

Herzliya-based Scitex and Komori, which manufactures offset and printing machines, are focusing on the interfacing of their systems.

In a statement, Scitex President and CEO Yoav Chelouch said that "Komori is a natural partner for Scitex." Komori's presses are ideal complements to Scitex's pre-press products, he said.

Chelouch added that his company's customers, "as well as the industry in general, will see real time and cost benefits from the integration."

Both companies have independently promoted the concept of seamless digital process integration and control.

Yoshiharu Komori, president of Komori, stated that "the relationship is a logical step in line with Komori's objective to expand its direct-to-plate capabilities."

Scitex develops, manufactures, and markets visual information communication products, for the graphic arts, digital printing, and digital video markets.

Komori, which last year had annual sales of roughly \$770 million, has sales subsidiaries in the US, Britain, and Canada.

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## ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patiah (foreign currency deposit rates) (3.9.97)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	4.875	5.250
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.250	5.375	5.750
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.750	1.875	2.250
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.000	0.125	0.500
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates\* (4.9.97)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	3.7262	3.7663	—	—	3.7541
U.S. dollar	3.4915	3.5482	3.43	3.90	3.5200
German mark	1.9192	1.9502	1.88	1.98	1.9333
Pound sterling	5.5217	5.6108	5.42	5.89	5.5655
French franc	0.5705	0.5788	0.56	0.59	0.5743
Japanese yen (100)	2.8942	2.9409	2.84	2.90	2.9242
Dutch florin	1.7039	1.7314	1.67	1.76	1.7162
Swiss franc	2.3251	2.3827	2.28	2.40	2.3447
Swedish krona	0.4428	0.4500	0.43	0.46	0.4485
Norwegian krona	0.4848	0.4723	0.45	0.48	0.4883
Danish krona	0.5042	0.5124	0.49	0.52	0.5077
Finnish mark	0.6399	0.6503	0.62	0.66	0.6489
Canadian dollar	2.5198	2.5905	2.47	2.60	2.5409
Australian dollar	2.5367	2.5797	2.49	2.82	2.5848
S. African rand	0.7419	0.7538	0.67	0.76	0.7485
Belgian franc (10)	0.9295	0.9445	0.91	0.98	0.9369
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7274	2.7714	2.68	2.81	2.7473
Italian lira (1000)	1.9571	1.9989	1.93	2.03	1.9836
Jordanian dinar	4.9250	5.0045	4.86	5.19	4.9456
Egyptian pound	0.9900	1.0600	0.90	1.08	1.0888
ECU	3.7668	3.8276	—	—	3.7917
Irish punt	5.1280	5.2077	5.03	5.25	5.1711
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2785	2.3128	2.23	2.36	2.2928

\*These rates vary according to bank. \*\*Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

MISHTANIM LEADING 1000 TASE ISSUES

Table listing leading TASE issues with columns for stock name, price, and change. Includes companies like Al Paper Mills, Adashon Ltd, and various banks.

KARAM SMALL CAPITALIZATION TASE ISSUES

Table listing small capitalization TASE issues with columns for stock name, price, and change. Includes companies like ATX Bond A, Adashon Ltd, and various banks.

Main table of financial data listing various bonds, stocks, and their prices and changes. Includes categories like 'Bonds', 'Stocks', and 'Options'.

Table listing Israeli shares in New York, including companies like Bank Leumi, Bank Hapoalim, and others.

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

AMEX

Table listing Israeli shares on the AMEX exchange.

NASDAQ

Table listing Israeli shares on the NASDAQ exchange, including companies like Bank Leumi, Bank Hapoalim, and others.

Table listing international shares in New York, including companies like Amgen, Genentech, and others.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Selling Bu' and 'Do It'.

# TASE unaffected by bombing

## Tel Aviv

Tel Aviv stocks closed lower as investors awaited trading on Wall Street and new economic figures that may indicate whether the Bank of Israel will change interest rates at the end of the month.

Analysts said the suicide bombing attack in Jerusalem yesterday would not deter investors interested in Israeli equities. Investors "are not sure the mini-crisis in New York has finished," said Zvi Hoffman, co-managing director of Meitav Ltd.

The market next week will be affected by "economic, not political," developments, Hoffman said.

## Europe

UK shares climbed for a fourth day as a weaker pound offset concern the US employment report, the most closely watched US economic indicator, may show surprising growth and fan talk of higher US interest rates.

Sterling's fall lifted companies that make a lot of their earnings abroad, including Glaxo Wellcome Plc, the world's second-biggest drugmaker, and RMC Plc, the UK's largest building-materials company.

## STOCKS

Maof 294.76 ▲ 0.81%  
Dow Jones 7867 ▲ 27.4  
FTSE 4991.3 ▲ 0.29%  
Nikkei 18615.06 ▼ 0.64%

Some investors said that they were unwilling to commit funds before today's jobs report from the US. It's expected to show the American economy created 72,000 jobs last month, according to a Bloomberg News survey.

"You're not going to see much ahead of the figures," said Mark Gardner, a fund adviser at Julius Baer Investments Ltd., which has about \$41 billion under management.

## Asia

Japanese stocks slipped, led by electronics companies, as investors sought to realize gains in electronics makers before the half-year book closing at the end of the month.

"We're simply seeing a correc-

## Wall Street

tion from Wednesday's highs," said Ichizo Yamauchi, director of research and planning at Kokusai Asset management Co., which handles 170 billion yen (\$1.4 billion). "Banks and other companies are just selling those shares that gained most to post profits before the month's end."

The benchmark Nikkei 225 Stock Average fell 120.11 points, or 0.64 percent, to 18,615.06. The Topix average of all shares on the first section fell 3.22 points, or 0.22 percent, to 1,446.63. The Jasiaq index of over-the-counter shares fell 0.04 point, or 0.11 percent, to 36.47.

On Wednesday, electronics surged 4.3% as a group, leading the Nikkei in its biggest one-day jump in four months. Today, investors sold shares to lock in those gains before September 30.

An estimated 381 million shares traded, shy of the six-month daily average of 401 million shares.

Investors were also concerned that declining worldwide chip prices and lower demand for personal computers could erode electronics makers' earnings. "Obviously what's happening in the US electrical sector and what's happening to the global semiconductor cycle have already been overriding the good news on the currency - i.e. a weaker yen," said Celia Farnon, a director at Nomura International Plc.

The blue-chip sector struggled, but stocks were mostly higher yesterday in quiet trading before today's key reading on wage inflation.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 27.40 points to 7,867.24, recovering over the final hour from a 76-point deficit.

Broad-market indicators posted modest gains, with the Russell 2000 index of smaller companies closing at a record high for the sixth consecutive session.

The continued strength in smaller company shares also bolstered the technology-heavy Nasdaq market, which rose despite the second discouraging forecast in two days from a leading computer-industry concern.

Advanced Micro Devices slid sharply after late Wednesday's warning that slow production of its new K6 semiconductors would weigh down the company's third-quarter results. Intel, maker of a rival high-end chip, rose in active Nasdaq trading.

The AMD news followed a discouraging outlook by computer maker Gateway 2000, but analysts said both announcements were specific to those companies rather than indicative of any industry trend.

US Life	
US Robotics	
US Surgical	
US Tech	
US West	
United Tech	
Unocal Corp	

French Franc (1)	0.5728	0
Japanese Yen (100)	2.2689	0
Swiss Franc (1)	2.3414	0
Canadian Dollar (1)	2.5408	0
Italian Lira (1000)	1.9802	0
Jordanian Dinar (1)	4.821	0

## NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

DJ Industrials	Last	Change
DJ Transp	7872.24	-27.4
DJ Util	2256.56	-0.38
DJ Comp	2427.56	-7.6
NVSE Indus	514.23	+1.34
NVSE Transp	439.94	-0.13
NVSE Comp	485.11	+1.1
S&P 100	992.51	-0.92
S&P Spot Index	930.87	-0.82

## OTHER MARKET INDEXES

FTSE 100	Last	Change
Shanghai	4891.3	+14.7
Hong Kong	18916	+121.2
Singapore all-share index	440.57	+1.85
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index	14198.1	-514.8
India	2704.9	-0.71
Asia CAC 40	2528.99	+0.87
DAX	1193.85	-26.28
Nikkei	2622.7	-0.64
Stoxx	2695.94	+18.9
Sydney	3588.5	-10.5
Mex	825.87	+18.54

## DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

Pound spot	Last	Change
Sep future (1M)	1.5822	-0.001
D-metric spot	1.8116	-0.002
90-day (1M)	1.8228	-0.002
S-func spot	1.4872	-0.004
90-day (1M)	1.4978	-0.005
Yen spot	120.58	-0.28
Sep future (3M)	1.0820	-0.006
Canadian spot	1.3847	-0.006
Sep future (1M)	1.3728	-0.006
Sep future (3M)	1.3724	-0.006
Franc spot	6.1095	-0.017
1 Line spot	1.85	-0.018
Mark spot	2.0455	-0.005
Aust spot	12.785	-0.007
Real spot	1.0025	-0.002
ECL spot	1.0889	-0.0028

## US COMMODITIES

Cocoa (Sep) (ICE)	Last	Change
Coffee (Sep) (ICE)	1.081	+0.01
Wheat (Sep) (CBOT)	371.75	-1.5
Soybean (Sep) (CBOT)	542.1	+0.5
Sugar (Oct) (ICE)	51.81	+0.01
Orange Juice (Nov) (ICE)	86.5	-0.15
Bonds	115.1	-0.1
S and P Sep future	931.5	+0.5
S and P Sep future	828.5	+0.5

## LONDON COMMODITIES

Cocoa (Sep) (ICE)	Last	Change
Coffee (Sep) (ICE)	1.081	+0.01
Brent crude (Oct) (DJP)	1.828	-0.01

## SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Silver spot	Last	Change
Gold spot	439	+0.01

## NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Silver (Sep)	Last	Change
Platinum (Sep)	415.2	+0.5
Palladium (Sep)	191.75	-1.5
High-grade copper (Sep)	0.9685	-0.002

## LONDON METAL FIXES

Gold AM fix	Last	Change
Gold PM fix	321.7	+0
Silver	457.5	+4

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

US (Basket) (1)	Last	Change
S. Dollar (1)	3.7492	0
British Pound (1)	3.519	0
Deutsche Mark (1)	5.9889	0
Japanese Yen (100)	1.3008	0

VF Corp	59.9125	+0.825
Valero Energy	34.875	+0.25
Varian Assoc	58.875	+0.625
Viacom	31.875	-0
Vehco	27.875	+0.125
Vulcan Materials	55.1875	+0.625

Wichita	54.5625	+0.5625
Wayman	27.5625	+0.5625
Wal-Mart Stores	38.0625	+0.0625
Warner-Lambert	122.58	+0.125
Waste Gas Light	25.9375	+0.475
Western Union	42.0625	+0.0625
Wynn Resorts	52.75	+0.025
Worshiping	34.875	+0.825
World Franch	25.4375	+0.825
Worldwide	26.4375	+0.125
Worldwide	34.125	+0.125
Wright	37.125	+0.825
Wynn Resorts	52.75	+0.025
Wynn Resorts	52.75	+0.025
World Comm	51.875	+0.025
Worldwide	19.75	+0.825
Worldwide	73.825	+0.625

Xerox	79	+0.875
Yellow Freight	31.125	+0.825
Zenith Electron	10.75	+0.475
Zoro Co	28.825	-0.125

Alcatel	473.5	-1
AT&T	327.5	-1
BT	217.5	-1
BT	217.5	-1
BT	217.5	-1
BT	217.5	-1
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# Dollar near lows versus mark

The dollar hovered above Wednesday's lows against the mark, undermined by concern the Bundesbank may raise interest rates in the near future.

Bundesbank President Hans Tietmeyer revived such concern Wednesday after expressing satisfaction over the mark's rebound and warning that "in the long term" a weak mark would be a burden for Germany and Europe.

While the dollar pared earlier losses after the Bundesbank left rates on hold at yesterday's monetary policy meeting, as expected, it didn't allay concern that the central bank may act soon amid evidence the German economy is gaining pace in the third quarter. "We think the Bundesbank will raise rates 10 basis points in the fourth quarter. That's a tiny absolute change but one that will have significant signal impact,"

said Nick Parsons, currency strategist at Paribas Capital Markets. "Anyone who thinks Germany cannot raise rates with 4 million unemployed will be forced to reassess."

The dollar was steady at 1.8230 marks from Wednesday's lows of 1.8180 marks. The dollar was also little changed at 120.50 yen from 121 yen at Wednesday.

The dollar recouped some of its losses after falling as low as 1.8098 marks in earlier European trading as "traders may have been a bit cautious ahead of the Bundesbank's meeting," said Rob Hayward, an economic adviser at Bank of America. He added that traders were looking to buy the dollar at cheaper levels in order "to sell it back at the top of the trading range."

Looking ahead, investors are now waiting for US reports, that were slated for release yesterday

## CURRENCIES

Dollar 3.5200 ▲ 0.14%  
Basket 3.7541 ▲ 0.13%  
Mark 1.9333 ▲ 0.14%  
Sterling 5.5655 ▼ 0.44%

and today - expected to show the economy and demand for labor are robust. That could fuel inflationary pressure and trigger US rates to rise.

The mark has declined by 15 percent against the dollar since the beginning of the year. New orders to the German manufacturing industry rose a larger-

than-expected 1 percent in July from June and 6.4% from a year ago.

Economists polled by Bloomberg News expected a monthly rise in German manufacturing orders of 0.5 percent and an annual growth of 5.9%.

"The market is fearful a rate hike could come any time, though one is unlikely today," said Nick Stamenkovic, an economist at DKB International prior to the Bundesbank meeting. "It is enough to give the mark some support."

While leaving the discount and the Lombard rates unchanged, the Bundesbank left the terms of its target money market rate open, keeping scope to react quickly to a shift in the mark's value against the dollar.

Of 29 investors, analysts and securities traders polled by Bloomberg News, only one pre-

dicted the German central bank will fix its repo rate yesterday. The rest expected it to continue to fix it each week at its securities repurchase tender on Tuesdays. The repo rate has been left unchanged at an historic low of 3% since August 1996.

Still, some economists are dubious a rate rise will take place any time soon, as it would choke the German export-led recovery by making German goods more expensive abroad.

"The continuing problem is where are the orders coming from. It's more export than domestic demand," said Brian Hilliard, chief economist for fixed income at Societe Generale Strauss Turbille. "They'll be loathe to act, given that if they raise rates it will damage the domestic economy. They'll be cautious about making any interest rate moves." (Bloomberg)

# Gold steady despite Russian sale

Precious metals prices were steady in New York on Wednesday on expectations that Russia's recent gold sale was a one-time event and not an indication of a change in governmental policy.

The Russian Ministry of Finance sold 31 tons of gold to help pay off debts to mining companies, the ministry said. Still, Russia has been building up its gold reserves at a time when other countries are cutting their holdings.

Spot gold fell 45 cents to \$321.55 an ounce.

Gold prices were little changed in London inter-bank trading. Gold

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## COMMODITIES

Gold \$320.95 ▼ 1.05  
Brent Oil \$18.35 ▼ 0.02  
CRB 234.44 ▼ 0.84

London, after an unexpected 0.9 percent decline in US crude oil supplies was balanced by higher heating oil supply and bets gasoline demand will fall.

A report issued after the close of New York floor trading by the American Petroleum Institute

showed an unexpected fall in crude supplies, underpinned by a fall in gasoline supplies.

The gasoline decline isn't concerning traders too much, they said. The drop came as drivers filled tanks ahead of the September 1 Labor Day holiday, a weekend that marks the end of the peak demand season. Car use should now start to fall.

October Brent crude traded as high as \$18.45 a barrel, up 8 cents from Wednesday's close, before slipping back to \$18.36 a barrel.

Coffee fell on the London International Financial Futures and

Options Exchange as traders bet stockpiles are large enough to sustain any fall in production. Prices soared on Wednesday amid concern drought could damage crops in Indonesia, Central America and Colombia, the world's second largest producer.

The 1998 crop from Indonesia could fall by as much as 30 percent because of El Nino, which has brought drought to the country in previous years.

Coffee crops from Colombia and Central America could also fall, traders said, as a result of persistently dry weather during July and August.

Coffee for November delivery in London fell \$24, to \$1,666 a metric ton. (Bloomberg)

## Oil

Prices of October Brent crude oil futures were little changed in

## Others

October Brent crude traded as high as \$18.45 a barrel, up 8 cents from Wednesday's close, before slipping back to \$18.36 a barrel.

# US Bonds little changed amid growth concern

US bonds were little changed as investors looked for evidence that the economy can continue to grow at a robust pace without a pickup in inflation.

"People are confused. We continue to have decent growth but little inflation," said Jim Madelmay, a government bond trader at Dresdner Securities Inc.

The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond was up 2/32, or 63 cents per \$1,000 bond, to 6.59. Its yield fell 1 basis point to 6.59 percent. The two-year note's yield was 1 basis point lower at 5.95%.

Few investors are placing bets until after today's release of the August employment report and next week's retail sales data, both critical to forming a picture of growth in the last part of the year. They're concerned that econom-

ic strength may prompt the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates by the end of the year to keep inflation from accelerating and the economy from overheating.

"Our expectations are for a fairly firm second half," said Rod Davidson, who helps oversee \$1 billion of fixed-income securities at Murray Johnstone Asset Management in Glasgow. Still, consumer prices were up just 1.5% through the first seven months of the year. That's the smallest annual increase since 1986.

Bond prices tumbled Wednesday after General Motors corp. reported stronger-than-expected car sales for August, fanning concern about an increase in inflation. The drop came just a day after bonds rallied following the release of a report showing manufacturing slowing.

## BONDS

US 30-year T-bill yield 6.59% ▼ 0.01

Investors are concerned August's employment report, due today, will show the job market is still buoyant and unemployment remains low. In addition, they are preparing for a raft of corporate debt sales in coming weeks.

"There's a lot of supply coming, from all over the globe," said Jack Ahlin, who oversees about \$7 billion at Barnett Banks in

Jacksonville, Florida. Among expected issuers are Korea Development Bank, he said.

Ahlin said he's not making a big bet on the direction of interest rates right now, and is more heavily weighted in corporate bonds than the index by which he measures his performance.

In economic reports yesterday, first-time jobless claims climbed by 2,000 in a seasonally adjusted 326,000 in the week ended Aug. 29, the Labor Department said.

While the results aren't included in today's monthly report for August, the figures were an example of the strengthening economy. "It's still consistent with a tight labor market and a vibrant economy," said Joseph Liro, an economist at CIBC Wood Gundy Securities Inc.

In a further sign that growth remains strong, orders placed with US factories increased in July to a record level, the Commerce Department said.

The 0.2% increase - to a seasonally adjusted \$330 billion - followed a revised 1.7% gain in June. The increase wasn't expected.

"It paints a much firmer picture of the manufacturing sector," said Anthony Chan, chief economist at Banc One Investment Advisors in Columbus, Ohio. Chan expects the yield on the benchmark 30-year bond to climb to 6.75% by end of September as more investors become concerned that the strong growth will prompt the Fed to raise its target rate for overnight loans between banks. It has been at 5.50% since March. (Bloomberg)

## BLAME

Continued from Page 5

Further left, Meretz MK Ran Cohen charged that "the prime minister is being disingenuous when he shifts the oous for terrorism on the Palestinian Authority. Netanyahu has failed to build up adequate contacts with the PA. He moves against it instead of seeking to cooperate with it."

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid asserted that "the bombs came to sabotage the Albright

mission. Albright must now double her efforts to make her visit successful." In a *Ma'ariv* article to be published today Sarid urges Albright to put pressure on the Netanyahu government to make concessions to Arafat.

But according to Molelet leader Rehavim Ze'evi, what "the left and the centrist Netanyahu government - no Bilhi is not the right wing - fail to understand is that the Arab aim has always been to destroy us."

Despite warnings, the government eased the closure. This is the opposite from what needs to

be done. We must have total and permanent separation."

The head of the Knesset's Eretz Yisrael

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**SITUATIONS WANTED**  
General

**GENERAL**

**MULTI-TALENTED JEWISH ORGANIZATION**

NEWS

in brief

Bids for Bank Hapoalim submitted

The Keil-Fishman consortium and the Arison group yesterday submitted their bids for a controlling interest in Bank Hapoalim to M.I. Holdings, the state company overseeing the sale of the banks.

The fact that the name of the winner was not published immediately indicates that the difference between the two bids was not substantial. It had earlier been announced that if the gap between the bids was large, the committee overseeing the sale reserved the right to announce the winner immediately.

Dan Gerstenfeld

Woman run over by bus in Tiberias

A woman was killed yesterday in Tiberias when she was hit by a bus after stepping off a curb, apparently without looking.

A Magen David Adom doctor pronounced her dead at the scene. The bus driver was held for questioning.

In Beersheba, a seven-year-old boy was seriously injured when he was struck by a car while crossing the street.

Itim

Boyfriend arrested in woman's murder

Jerusalem police arrested a gynecologist, Dr. Eli Rosen, yesterday on suspicion he murdered his girlfriend, who was found dead in her Bayit Vegan apartment in the morning.

Police said the woman was shot in the head. The woman's 11-year-old daughter told police that the man had been in the house Wednesday night. The girl found her mother dead in her bed yesterday morning.

Itim

Alleged murderer's remand extended

The remand of Jan Kabatani, the foreign worker arrested about a month ago on suspicion of the murder of Tamar Ben-Yosef, 65, in her Tel Aviv home, was extended for 15 days by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday. Only this week did Kabatani confess to the crime and re-enact it for police. He said he worked as a handyman, and got into an argument with Ben-Yosef over payment for some work he did for her. During the argument, he stabbed her twice, hit her in the head with a brick, and choked her. He left her body in the apartment under several cement bags.

Itim

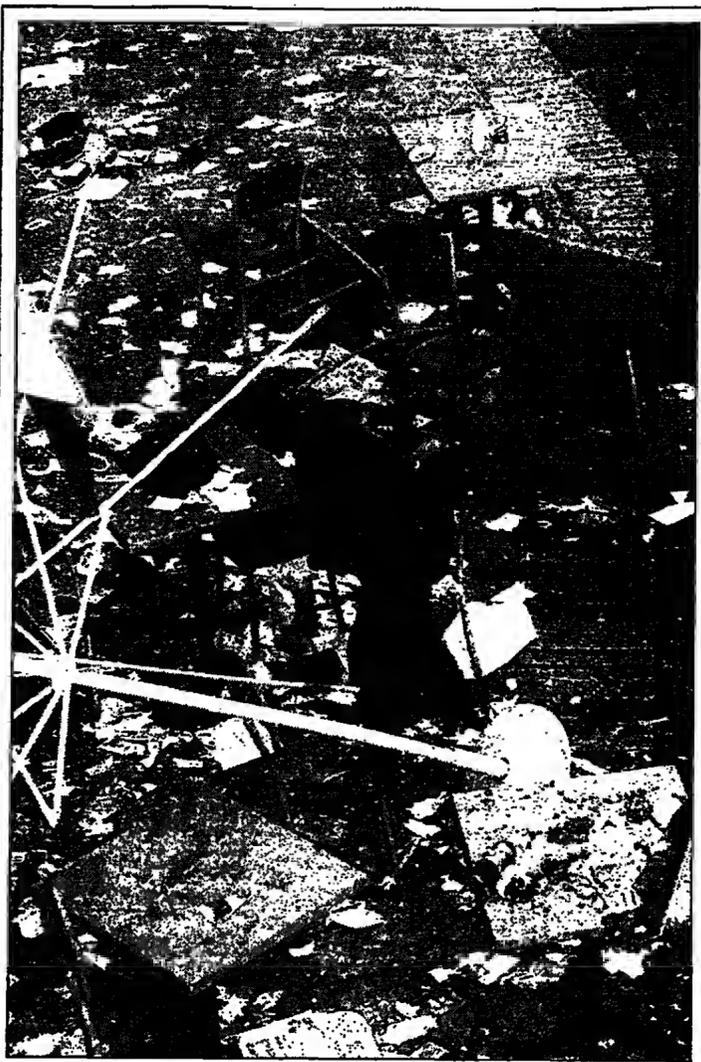
Judge releases Felix Abutbul

A magistrate's court released Felix Abutbul on bail yesterday after he spent eight days in jail on suspicion of several Netanya murders, arson, harassment and obstructing a police investigation.

The judge rejected a police argument that it expected more solid evidence to arrive from France in a couple of days, and determined that a line had to be drawn between police needs to investigate and the rights of a suspect.

Abutbul was arrested Aug. 26 on suspicion of murdering Shlomi Cohen in March 1996, his mother in February and her husband, Alex Dubitsky, in May.

Itim



Searching for evidence

A police sapper collects shards of evidence as he sifts through debris outside a cafe on Rehov Ben-Yehuda yesterday.

(Ariel Jermolovitch)

OFFICIALS

Continued from Page 2

"The security cooperation with PA is not good," a senior security source said. "There are some PA sources who still help us but it's not enough. The security cooperation has to be daily for it to work."

The officials said many defensive measures against terrorism have become ineffective. This includes the deployment of more police in Israeli cities.

Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz, one of the security chiefs who briefed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last night, said Israel must locate and eliminate terrorist strongholds.

"If we don't take care of the infrastructure then we can't ensure that there won't be more attacks," he said. "The way we handle the infrastructure is the key. We can't

rely on defensive measures." Security officials said the decision rests with the government.

After the July 30 Mahaneh Yebuda bombing, the government decided to allow Israeli security forces to operate in PA-controlled areas. But except for a successful operation to nab an escaped Islamic Jihad detainee in Tulkarm last month, the IDF and GSS have stayed out of Area A.

The officials said relying on Israeli raids into PA-controlled areas will signal the end of the Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts.

They said the US is working hard to prevent this by arranging meetings between the GSS and Palestinian security services, with the attendance of CIA officials.

"Unfortunately, the US finds it difficult to separate the security and political sides of the issue," an official said. "The US can't bring itself to acknowledge the failure of Oslo."

Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's first daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were jack of spades, ace of hearts, queen of diamonds and the 10 of clubs.

In the second drawing, the winning cards were the 9 of spades, the king of hearts, the 9 of diamonds, and the 9 of clubs.

In yesterday's weekly Pavis Hazak drawing, ticket number 072910 won NIS 1 million, while number 395552 won the car.

Tickets 531912, 855352, 233021, 454032, 130708, 774507, 725662 and 849488 won NIS 5,000.

Tickets ending in 00378, 54802, 60781, 56772, 39416, 03922, 04610, 97461, 94078, 06604, 23046, 23335, 50894, 10175, 42269, 21870, 55356, and 20857, won NIS 1,000.

Tickets ending in 918, 755, 334, and 927 won NIS 100.

Tickets ending in 71, 05, 69, and 98 won NIS 30. Tickets ending in 42 and 74 won NIS 20, and tickets ending in 1 and 9 won NIS 10.

CLOSURE

Continued from Page 2

After the meeting, Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom told Channel 1 that Israel demands that the Palestinians crack down on terrorism. He refused to elaborate on the meeting.

Mordechai said the security forces are discussing various possibilities, adding that closure does not offer a complete solution, but is a necessary step that had to be

taken.

"Preventive steps and security measures have already been taken. They cannot totally prevent further attacks, but they can minimize them," he said. "Steps will be taken in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza by the Israel Police and Border Police, which will safeguard public areas and facilities."

In an interview on Channel 1 Mordechai admitted that the security forces had no concrete information regarding the identities of the bombers.

Mordechai said he is sure, the terrorists came from areas under Palestinian control. "Those are the areas that we expect the Palestinians to rout out and destroy," he added.

Former deputy GSS chief MK Gideon Ezra (Likud) told Channel 1 that closure is not an effective measure in fighting terrorism. "All the borders must be closed to prevent explosives from reaching Israel and the security forces must buckle down."

He said the most important element Israel should use is intelligence.

someone from Ezer Mizion drove her and two other people who'd found the names they were seeking to Shaare Zedek.

Word had got out that among the casualties brought to Bikur Holim was a 20-year-old woman. A tense young man unable to locate his girl friend begged to know the name of the young woman who had died en route to hospital. So did an older man whose daughter was missing. Bot the hospital either could not or would not release her name. There was nothing to do but wait.

I asked about the Kaufmans over and over again, but their names did not appear on any list. Finally I decided to try Emergency again. This time I got in and followed a television photographer up to the children's ward where I saw Yoram sitting alongside Tamar. "Hello," he said. "I left my car parked outside your house."

HELL

Continued from Page 4

Watching the live television coverage in the immediate aftermath, I saw them being evacuated by ambulance and was somewhat certain that they were being taken to Bikur Holim.

When I got there, security people refused to allow anyone who wasn't injured into the emergency entrance. A press pass didn't help. Entering through the front door, I was told that an information center had been set up in the Fertility Department across the road. There too, security personnel were more concerned with keeping people out than letting them in. But anyone who got in encountered a battery of volunteers, medics, and paramedics who were kind, considerate, and efficient.

Anxious relatives and friends, crowded at the counter to enquire if the names of their loved ones were on the Bikur Holim list or those faxed from Shaare Zedek and Hadassah. A grey-haired man patiently waited his turn. "My kid didn't come home. See if you've got Cohen, Ya'acov on the list."

A totally hysterical woman barged in screaming: "They let the dogs out two days ago and they killed my daughter."

Volunteers sat her down and got her to drink some of the orange juice provided by Ezer Mizion, one of several volunteer organizations which help the sick and their families. The woman gave her daughter's name. It was on the Shaare Zedek list, but that didn't mean that her worst fears were unconfirmed. She was taken into an anteroom where she was gently asked if there was someone at home who could be called. Later,

she found the names they were seeking to Shaare Zedek.

Word had got out that among the casualties brought to Bikur Holim was a 20-year-old woman. A tense young man unable to locate his girl friend begged to know the name of the young woman who had died en route to hospital. So did an older man whose daughter was missing. Bot the hospital either could not or would not release her name. There was nothing to do but wait.

I asked about the Kaufmans over and over again, but their names did not appear on any list. Finally I decided to try Emergency again. This time I got in and followed a television photographer up to the children's ward where I saw Yoram sitting alongside Tamar. "Hello," he said. "I left my car parked outside your house."

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# Buckingham Palace extends route for Diana's funeral

By PAUL MYLREA

LONDON (Reuters) - Under pressure to allow more people to pay last respects to Princess Diana, Buckingham Palace has extended the route her coffin will take to the funeral in Westminster Abbey.

Diana's body will now leave the Chapel Royal at St. James's Palace today and stay at Kensington Palace, the former home of the princess, overnight. It will leave there tomorrow morning for the abbey, the palace said.

The decision will more than triple the distance of the funeral procession to around 5.6 kms.

Buckingham Palace said it made the decision out of consideration for public safety.

"We've always tried to consider a way of lengthening the route in such a way that more people would be able to see the procession in safety," a spokesman said.

But criticism of the royal family mounted, with television news bulletins questioning why Diana's former husband, Prince Charles, and mother-in-law, Queen Elizabeth, had not immediately flown from their Scottish country estate to be beside the body.

The public's view, said Channel Four's Jon Snow, was that it appeared "the House of Windsor does not share the outpouring of love and affection" seen on the streets of London for the "people's princess".

Criticism has focused on the fact that neither Charles nor the queen have personally delivered the statements about Diana's death.

Friends of the royal family sprang to their defense.

Ronald Allison, a former press spokesman for the family, told Channel Four: "They are as grief-stricken and full of sorrow as anyone could be."

But the BBC's royal correspondent, Paul Reynolds, said there was no question the royal family appeared to be bowing to "people power" - the thousands of people who have carpeted the ground outside Kensington Palace with flowers and the national outpouring of grief.

"It is people power against protocol. People power is winning at the moment..." Reynolds said.

"The old ways are not necessarily the best ways and I think that raises all sorts of questions about the future of the monarchy and the style of the monarchy," he said.

Prime Minister Tony Blair appealed for respect for the royal family's grief as they sought to comfort Diana's sons, William and Harry.

In an unprecedented attempt to quell the growing murmurs, Prince Charles's senior press spokeswoman, Sandy Henney, explained on television why the royal family had remained at their Balmoral estate in Scotland.

"At a time when you lose a member of your family I think you want to be alone with the family," she said.

Buckingham Palace said Charles, William and Harry would fly to London today from their estate and go to the Chapel Royal where Diana's body has lain since early Monday.

Queen Elizabeth, her husband Prince Philip and the queen mother will travel by train overnight, arriving in London for the funeral tomorrow morning.

"All the royal family, especially the prince of Wales, Prince William and Prince Harry are taking strength from the overwhelming support of the public who are sharing their tremendous sense of loss and grief," Buckingham Palace said Wednesday.

Paul Condon, the chief of London's police, said several million people were expected in London tomorrow.

Two giant video screens will be erected in the vast open space of Hyde Park to enable another 100,000 people to watch the ceremony.

The somber crowds, joined around the world by billions of television viewers, will dwarf the happy throngs who greeted Lady Diana Spencer's fairy tale 1981 marriage to Charles, an ill-starred union that ended in acrimonious divorce a year ago.

After the funeral, more crowds are expected to line the cortege route to Diana's final resting place alongside 20 generations of forebears at the Spencer family estate in central England.

In the capital, tens of thousands have queued around the clock to sign books of condolence. Royal officials first put out five books in a hall at St. James's Palace, but later had to increase the number to 43.

The princess was killed with her millionaire companion Dodi Fayed early on Sunday in Paris when their Mercedes limousine crashed at high speed as they tried to elude



A London policeman looks on yesterday as a woman adds to a mountain of flowers placed outside Kensington Palace where thousands of mourners have gathered all week to pay respects to Princess Diana.

paparazzi photographers on motorcycles.

Seven photographers being investigated for manslaughter deoy blame for her death.

Some said that the driver, Henri Paul, racing at high speed despite being well over France's drunk-driving limit, had shaken off the pursuers before he crashed.

While the streets of London will be packed to overflowing tomorrow morning, the rest of the country is expected to come to a standstill.

Thousands of shops, banks, cinemas and theaters will be shut and the nation will observe a minute's silence at the end of the funeral service.

Even the Scottish Football Association - which had stood out against moving a World Cup match against Belarus at the time that Diana is being buried - backed down on Wednesday night after a public outcry. The match was rescheduled for Sunday.

## Diana's death fuels memorabilia demand

By RICHARD CHANG

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Demand for Princess Diana memorabilia has soared since her fatal car crash, as a public she inspired seeks to own a part of her magic, myth and romance.

The worldwide fascination with the princess made hot properties out of Diana mementos, ranging from gaudy trinkets and souvenirs in London stores to her glamorous gowns sold at a Christie's New York auction in June.

"It has a kind of magical value because it makes you feel you are somehow connected with [the princess]. It's also like touching wood or any other sacred subject," said Ruth Rubinstein, sociology professor at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York.

"There's such fantasy and romance associated with her. Somehow people don't want to let loose of it," added Jean Drusedow,

director of the Keot State University Museum of Costume and Decorative Arts in Kent, Ohio. "It's such a relief from a mundane everyday existence."

Since Diana's death Sunday, London's souvenir shops have been flooded with mourners seeking T-shirts, mugs, spoons, anything to hold on to a piece of her legacy.

While a Diana postcard may cost as little as loose change, prices of limited-edition ceramics commemorating key events in her life are expected to rise sharply.

"I have some real nice pieces of Princess Di. Next week I will take them out and increase their prices by 33 percent," said Ed Sperling, owner of Britannia Past, a store in Kennebunkport, Maine, that sells royal commemorative items.

Orders to buy the remaining copies of Christie's catalogs for her 79 dresses auctioned in New York to benefit AIDS and cancer

patients have soared since her death.

The dresses, which fetched \$3.2 million - far more than they cost - are destined to become even more valuable with time, especially since they are her only personal belongings that the public can buy. "You touch it and your whole life becomes more meaningful," Rubinstein said. "And because you're supporting AIDS [charities], you can be proud that you purchased it."

While it is still too early to assess the impact of Diana's death on memorabilia prices, dresses of hers bought at Christie's are already being donated to be auctioned off again to benefit her humanitarian causes.

Barbara Jordan, who owns the bridal store Bjoux in Boston, has donated all three dresses she bought for \$100,000.

Prices are almost certainly to be even higher than at Christie's because support for Diana's charities will most likely be stronger.

"Some people wanted to possess part of her clothing, but insoucians which wrote large checks were really supporting her charities," said Drusedow, who formerly headed the Costume Institute at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Any future auction of Diana's belongings is likely to eclipse even Sotheby's sale of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis' possessions last year, which fetched \$34.5 million.

Diana's death had a far greater impact on the world than those of Jackie Onassis and Italian designer Gianni Versace, whose merchandise enjoyed a surge in demand right after his murder.

So much so that Elsa Klensch, editor of "Style" on CNN, declared, "Glamour is dead," since no one of Diana's stature is likely to emerge in this lifetime.

Even then, will demand for a piece of Diana's magic remain high forever?

Or does one's death merely give celebrity a brief boost that is destined to fade with memory?

"Anything goes up after anyone dies because there will be no more. It makes it a limited edition," according to Diane McGee, a vintage clothing dealer and collector in Omaha, Nebraska.

Column One



## Bells toll for stiff-necked royals

By Thomas O'Dwyer

Crowds queue to sign books of condolence, flags fly at half staff, cathedral services are planned. It's unremarkable news, no more than one would expect for Princess Diana, except for one detail. This is Dublin, capital of republican Ireland.

A special service of remembrance will be held in the capital's St. Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday - an ecumenical ceremony including all Christians. The president, Mary Robinson, will be there along with members of the government and members of the parliament and senate. The Irish national flag will be lowered across the country during her funeral in London.

It is highly unusual for Ireland to honor foreign personalities in this way. It is hard to convey how unusual it is for the Irish to feel this way about a British royal. It is a measure of Diana's international power.

While, like other foreigners, many Irish have a vicarious interest in the "royal soap opera" of their neighbor, they are heartily glad to be rid of royals, especially British ones.

The country once had an ancient system of royalty - a procession of powerful provincial Celtic kings and queens and a nominal High King based at royal Tara. Some Celtic traditionalists in the independence movement had some airy idea of restoring Celtic monarchy but it was a non-starter. Free Ireland was and is fiercely and resolutely republican.

### Stuffy house

The Irish have little but scorn for the stuffy House of Windsor and the principle of (some) inherited power that lives across the water - but that's their British business. The last time flags were flown at half mast for a foreign national was for another British aristocrat - but that was from guilt and shame rather than love. It was in 1979, for Lord Mountbatten, because he was murdered by the IRA while holidaying in Ireland. Before that, it was done for John F. Kennedy - but he was genuine Irish.

The intention of this preamble is not to distract attention from what will be the most astounding outpouring of British grief the world has ever witnessed at tomorrow's funeral. It is intended to shine a light from the side to sharpen those dark shadows gathering around the British royals at home.

This is a most dangerous time for the royal family, sealed away in gloomy old Balmoral Castle in Scotland, now so hopelessly out of touch with Britain that the entire bunch could be preserved in aspic and stood in the British museum.

### It's capital 'D'

If Diana's Grecian tragedy can reduce the Irish to tears, what are we to make of Diana's erstwhile in-laws. The first two stiff official statements they issued about the death managed not even to mention her name. Hey there, palace - it's D-I-A-N-A!

Emotionally charged events need, like poetry, to be analyzed in tran-

quility and it may not be the time to say whether Diana's memory will slowly fade along with the exhausted outpourings of grief.

Probably not. JFK lives on because he was young, handsome and died too early - before the idealism he represented for his generation became tarnished with the uncool errors of middle age. Rare among mere celebrities, Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe have not lost their power as icons for new generations for many of the same reasons.

Diana already was an exceptional character, without the added agony of a tragic death. What the British of a royal family appears not to have grasped is that the British people virtually elected Diana as the royal who was most regal. If there must be such an arcane concept as a ruling royal family in the 1990s - then, they said, let us have Diana.

The titular rulers of Britain are not elected, they are born. But even in ancient despotic times, foolish indeed was the king or queen who allowed themselves to drift out of touch with the mood of the people. Fairy tales and legends are replete with rulers who were deemed "wicked" just for that sin.

### Horsely hunt

Britain has a monarchy so stiff they could not bend protocol to fly a flag at half staff over Buckingham Palace when the crowds are clamoring for just such a simple public mark of respect. Perhaps the people should be thankful the snooty mandarins within haven't complained about the mountain of flowers and cards piled at the gates.

The palace dithered over the statements, they dithered over the funeral arrangements. The royals avoided going out to meet their grieving people and that may be the most unforgivable sin of all. It is obvious to the world that the British people are in deep pain over this loss. This is no longer the stiff-upper-lipped nation of imperial days. Diana taught them to love royalty again not for its stuffy old traditions and horsely-hunt eccentricities - but for her warmth, beauty and compassion. It has fallen to Tony Blair to catch and lead the public mood and twist the arms of the palace protocol merchants.

Much has been heard of her sterling work with unfashionable charities. But in more practical patriotic vein she decided to wear only British clothes on her formal appearances. Thus she gave a single-handed boost to reviving the stodgy British fashion industry and all that represented in mundane terms of jobs and exports and national prestige.

This tragedy will prove to be a defining moment for modern Britain - a long-awaited turning point into the future. If the royal family continues to miss the tide of public sentiment tomorrow, when millions take to the streets for the first time since the nation buried Winston Churchill, they may well be left on the shore of the next century as the jettison of history.

With great sadness we mourn the tragic, untimely death of

**Yael Botwin** יָאֵל בּוֹטְוִין

at the hands of murderous terrorists.

The funeral will take place in Jerusalem at 12 noon today, Friday, September 5, 1997, Erev Shabbat, 3 Eul 5757, at the Beit Hespod of Hevra Kadisha Kehilat Yerushalayim at Har Hamenuhot (opposite Herzog Hospital).

The family requests the media not be present.

Julie, Tamar, and Michal Botwin

In deep sorrow we announce the passing of our father, grandfather, and brother

**Rabbi RAPHAEL LEVY**

The funeral took place at Moshav Tzafriya yesterday, September 4, 1997.

Shiva at Moshav Tzafriya, No. 21.

Mourned by:

Wife: Yehudit

Son: Aharon and family

Daughter: Rick and family

To mark the first *yahrzeit* of the passing of

**HELENE ROTENBERG** הֵלֵנֶה רוֹטֶנְבֵּרְג

a service will be held at the Shikun Vatikin cemetery, Netanya, on Sunday, September 14, at 4 p.m.

The Family

Our sincerest condolences to

**Professor Lawrence Zalzman**

on the passing of his mother

**MENUCHA FREDL**

bat Shlomo Todorus

The Officers and Members of the Israel Mathematical Union

The *shloshim* of our dearly beloved mother and grandmother

**ROSZI LERBA LEVINGER** רֹזִי לֶרְבָּא לֵוִינְגֶּר

will take place on Tuesday, September 9, 1997 (7 Eul 5757) at 4 p.m., at Har Hamenuhot Cemetery, Section 9. (We will meet in the parking area.)

Yosef and Chama Lerba and children

Michael Levinger

**JCT** Jerusalem College of Technology

Machon Lev

extends heartfelt condolences to

**Gini Bachrach** and family

on the passing of

**HANS AVRAHAM BACHRACH** חַנְס אַבְרָהָם בַּחֲרָךְ

a true friend and benefactor of the college

אֶתְּמֵן לְךָ אֲנִי וְיִשְׂרָאֵל חֵן וְחֶסֶד וְרַחֲמִים

Prof. Joseph S. Bodenheimer, President JCT on behalf of the faculty, staff and students

Bar-Ilan University

deeply mourns the passing of its dear friend

**HANS BACHRACH** חַנְס בַּחֲרָךְ

of Australia and Israel,

devoted member of the university's Global Board of Trustees.

A man of vision and commitment, Hans assumed outstanding leadership in support of numerous university Torah and science projects and student scholarship and activity programs. Bar-Ilan University, and all those who knew him, intensely feel the pain of his absence.

The university extends deepest condolences to his wife, Gini, and the entire family.

May you be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

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**Wednesday, September 10, 1997 - 4 p.m.**

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AGGRESSIVE SWEDE - Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman in action against Petr Korda of the Czech Republic in New York yesterday. Korda retired during the match after complaining of flu-like symptoms.

# Hingis wins in New York, Davenport reaches first Grand Slam semifinal

NEW YORK (AP) - Serve tosses floated like beach balls in the breeze, groundstrokes flew crazily, and napkins scudded across the court. Martina Hingis dealt with it all so effortlessly Wednesday night at the US Open, as if she were riding the whipping wind past a befuddled Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, 6-3, 6-2.

only one on a hardcourt, in a three-setter last month in Los Angeles, just after Hingis won their three-set duel at Stanford University.

Sanchez Vicario couldn't agree more, seeing in Hingis a player who has confidence on every shot. "Everything for her is working really well," said Sanchez Vicario, the 1994 US Open champion.

# Sweden won't protest rescheduled Scotland match

ERINNA (Reuters) - Swedish officials said yesterday they did not protest against a rescheduled match between Scotland and Sweden.

# Mac. Haifa v. Hapoel TA highlight of weekend soccer

Maccabi Haifa v. Hapoel Tel Aviv, Betar Jerusalem v. Hapoel Haifa and the Petah Tikva derby are the featured matches of this weekend's soccer action.

# Red Sox lose despite one-hitter

MONTREAL (AP) - Aaron Sele and Tom Gordon combined on a one-hitter but lost on Mike Lansing's third-inning homer as the Expos beat the Boston Red Sox, 1-0 on Wednesday.

# Injured Sheringham out of England World Cup match

LONDON (Reuters) - England striker Teddy Sheringham was ruled out of his country's World Cup qualifier against Moldova.

The injury increases Hoddle's problems, with his leading striker Alan Shearer already sure to be out of action until next year due to an ankle injury.

# The National League won in Interleague play, 117-97

Tigers 12, Braves 4. Tony Clark homered and had five RBIs as visiting Detroit routed John Smoltz and Atlanta 12-4.

# Major League Baseball Leaders

Table listing MLB leaders in batting, pitching, and fielding. Includes names like Walker, Gwynn, and Smoltz.

# Olympic race far too close to call

LAUSANNE (Reuters) - Obsessive speculation among International Olympic Committee (IOC) members, bidding cities, sports federations and assorted media over the hosts for the 2004 Summer Olympics reached a predictable conclusion yesterday.

apparent to most impartial observers, are better than they were in the past and will disappear by the year 2004.

# IOC plan no commemoration of 1972 Munich massacre

LAUSANNE (Reuters) - The International Olympic Committee does not plan to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the tragic killing of 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics today.

Romans, pre-empting criticism of the city's traffic, have presented a long and detailed submission which they say proved beyond doubt that transport both to and within Italy would be fast and trouble-free.

# Samaranch re-elected as IOC president

LAUSANNE (Reuters) - Juan Antonio Samaranch was re-elected as president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for a fourth and final term at the age of 77 yesterday.

movement into a successful commercial enterprise and earlier this year signed a television deal for more than \$2 billion with the American network NBC for the 2004 and 2008 Summer Games and 2006 Winter Games.

Table showing American League standings for East, Central, and West Divisions. Columns include W, L, Pct, GB, L10, Str, Home, Away, Infr.

Table showing National League standings for East, Central, and West Divisions. Columns include W, L, Pct, GB, L10, Str, Home, Away, Infr.

Table showing Wild Card Standings for American and National Leagues. Columns include W, L, Pct, GB.

Table showing Interleague Standings. Columns include Team, W, L, Pct, GB.

# Seve: My Ryder 12 stronger than 1987

CRANS SUR SIERRE, Switzerland (Reuters) - European Ryder Cup captain Seve Ballesteros named Nick Faldo and Jesper Parnevik as his wild cards yesterday and claimed his team for the September 26-28 match against the US was stronger than the victorious squad of 1987.

# Maradona positive in second dope test

BUENOS AIRES (Reuters) - A second test Wednesday confirmed that Diego Maradona's urine sample tested positive for forbidden substances after the first league match of the season last week.

# Maradona tested positive for first time

Maradona tested positive for the first time after the first test of the soccer star's urine. The Argentine said he understood the drug was cocaine.





Peace Notebook Children from Kibbutz Mevo Hama yesterday present Education Minister Zevulun Hammer with a meter-long 'Peace Notebook,' in which they collected 10,000 signatures from children all over the country. (Byran McBarney)

# Bakshi-Doron backs Neeman reform plans

Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron yesterday came out in support of Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman's plan to reform the operations of the religious councils and subsidies for yeshiva students.

However, he stressed that he was not relating to the specifics of Neeman's proposals, but to his intention to tackle issues that need to be dealt with. He said that there is nothing in Halacha that necessitates the formation of religious councils, adding that the fact that their members are political appointees is disturbing to the rabinate.

He also said that there are yeshiva students who were forced into full-time study and whose presence there is difficult both for them and the yeshiva. He said he related positively to an effort to solve this problem.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu noted that, in addition to Bakshi-Doron, Neeman's plan has the support of other yeshiva heads and rabbis.

Speaking to a gathering of mayors in Bat Yam, Netanyahu praised Neeman's work, and noted that he is raising various ideas, but has yet to present a concrete plan for reforming the religious councils or incorporating yeshiva students into the workforce.

### WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. An additional rise in temperatures. Shabbat: No change.

### AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH			
Amsterdam	12	54	28	73	cloudy
Berlin	15	58	23	73	cloudy
Buenos Aires	19	58	18	68	clear
Calcutta	21	70	31	88	cloudy
Chicago	27	45	19	73	cloudy
Copenhagen	11	59	22	73	cloudy
Hankou	15	59	23	73	cloudy
Hong Kong	26	29	29	91	clear
London	17	53	33	81	clear
Los Angeles	23	73	33	81	clear
Madrid	16	53	15	68	clear
Moscow	05	45	15	48	cloudy
Mumbai	26	32	27	72	cloudy
New York	20	68	27	77	cloudy
Paris	16	59	29	64	cloudy
Perth	18	61	27	70	cloudy
Rangoon	25	27	30	86	cloudy
Sydney	12	43	17	68	clear
Tokyo	18	64	17	82	cloudy
Vancouver	16	61	24	76	cloudy

# Israel won't ratify chemical weapons pact

GENEVA (Reuters) - Israel cannot ratify a major treaty banning chemical weapons because none of the Arab states it suspects of stockpiling them has even gone so far as to sign the pact, Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur, told the UN-backed Conference on Disarmament yesterday.

# Israel sends millions of flowers for Diana mourners

Israel has rushed about 5 million extra flowers to Europe this week to help meet a growing demand by British mourners paying respects to the late Princess Diana.

# Histadrut suspends sanctions

In the wake of yesterday's bombings, the Histadrut decided yesterday to freeze a wave of work disruptions and sanctions launched in protest against government economic policy.

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